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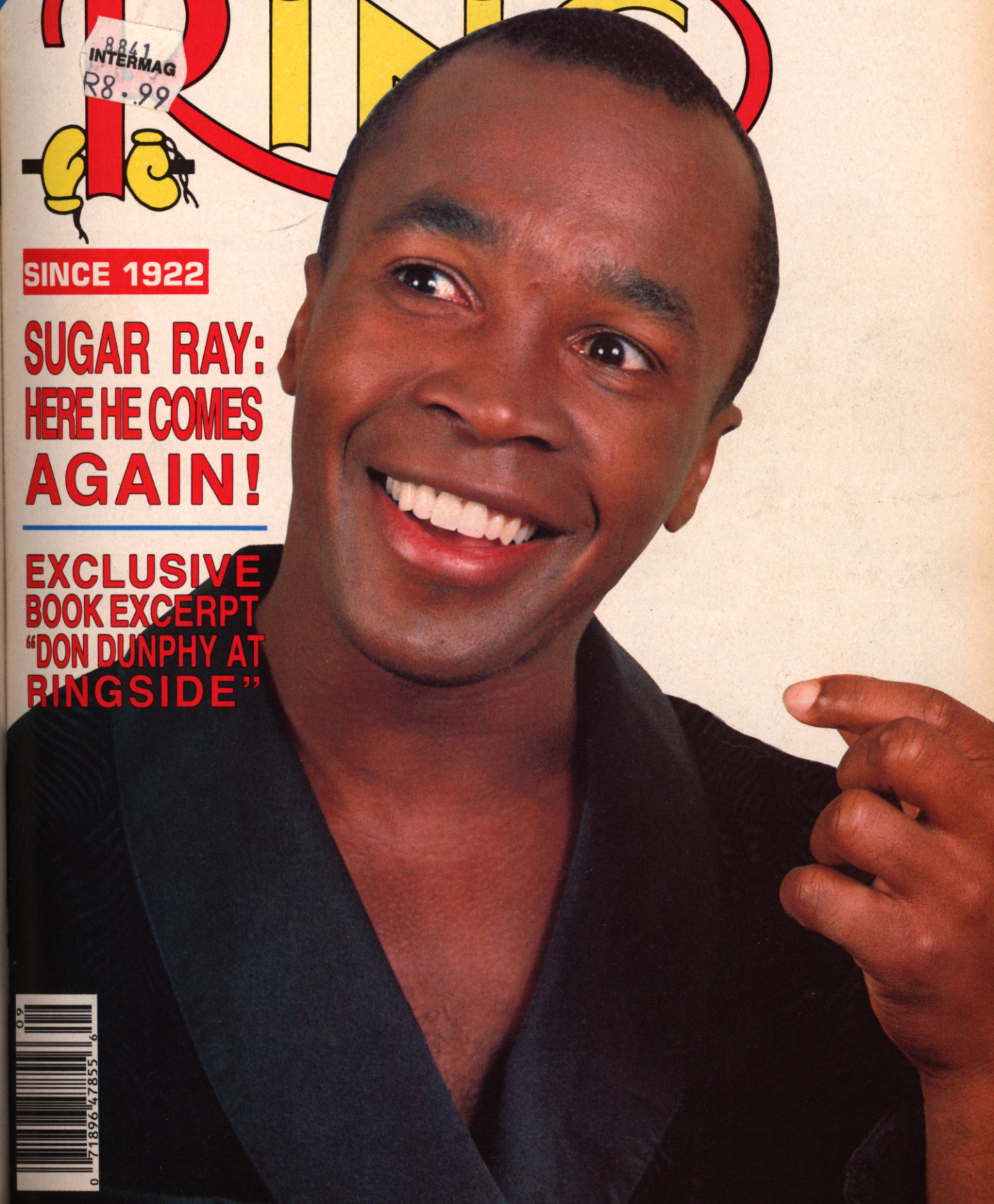

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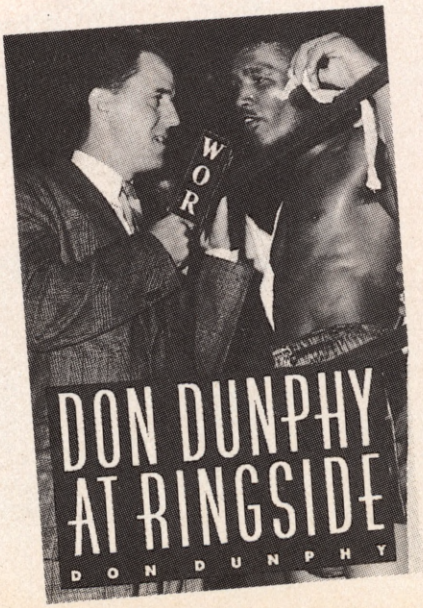


Henry Holt

The RING

The bible of boxing

CONTENTS

September 1988, Vol. LXVII, No. 7. Cover photo by Jack Goodman.

FEATURES

16 **RANDOM CRITICISMS** *by Joseph D'O'Brian*
28 **THE HORROR OF KID CHOCOLATE** *by Jonathan Rendall*
36 **SUGAR RAY LEONARD INTERVIEW** *by Nigel Collins*

BOOK EXCERPT

20 **GILLETTE TV YEARS, 1960-1964** *by Don Dunphy*

PROFILES

67 **BOXER SHORTS: DONNELL WINGFIELD & REGGIE JOHNSON**
68 **IN THIS CORNER: LAURY MEYER** *by Jeff Carlson*

RINGSIDE REPORTS & ANALYSIS

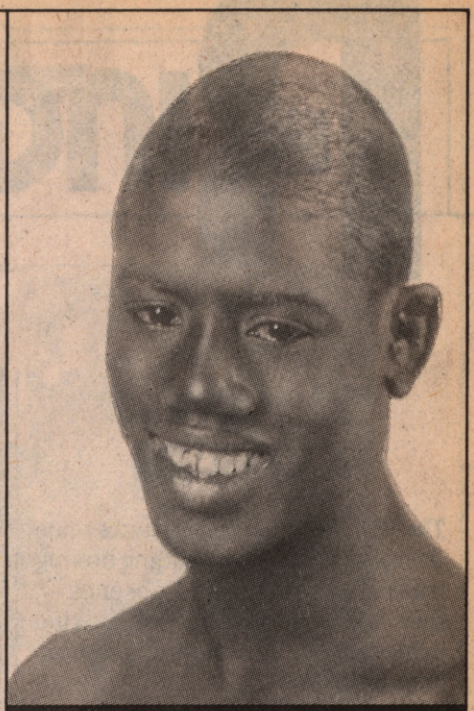
10 **RINGSIDE REPORTS: Tate-Williams, Foreman-Williams, Andries-Czyz, Galaxy-Vasquez, Lora-Lopez, Grove-Taylor, Gamez-Yokozawa, McGuigan-Perez**
40 **RINGS AROUND THE WORLD**

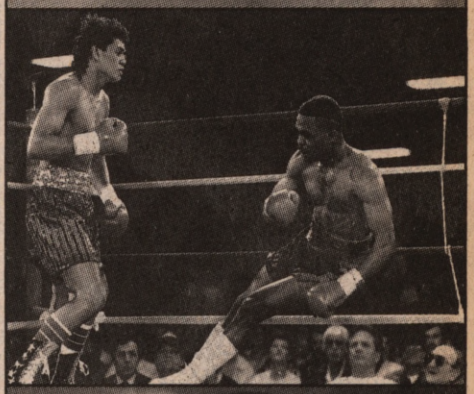
RATINGS

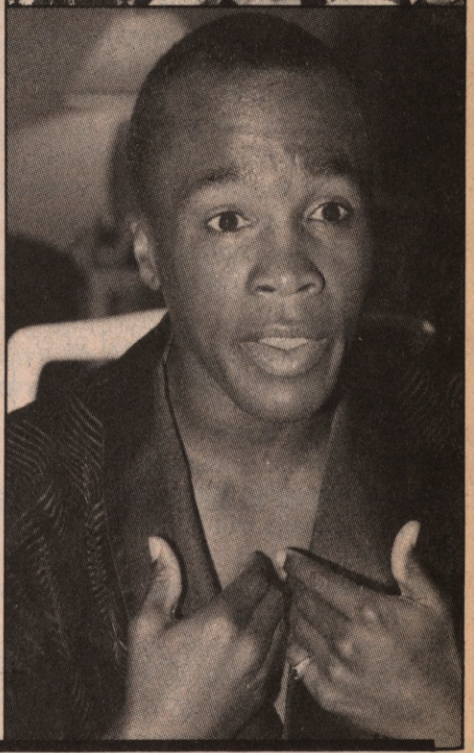
34 ***THE RING'S INTERNATIONAL RATINGS***
51 ***WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION RATINGS***

DEPARTMENTS

2 ***RINGSIDE*** *by Nigel Collins*
4 ***COME OUT WRITING***
6 ***ROUND ONE*** *by Phill Marder*
8 ***ASK THE ANSWERMAN*** *by Phill Marder*
65 ***WORLDWIDE FIGHT RESULTS***







THE RING
September, 1988 Vol. LXVII, No. 7

RingSide

THE RETURN OF A TRADITION

The Ring is pleased to announce the return of a long-standing boxing tradition after a lengthy absence — that ultimate symbol of boxing achievement, *The Ring* championship belt.

In recent years, budgetary restrictions prevented us from presenting a belt worthy of the boxers who distinguished themselves by winning "genuine" world championships. However, with the continued support of our readers and our army of correspondents around the globe, we are now in a position to reinstate *The Ring* world championship belt in all its former glory.

With a zillion so-called championships polluting boxing today, the situation has gone beyond confusing, all the way to farcical. *The Ring*'s first step in an effort to restore sanity to our beloved sport came last year when all but the traditional eight weight divisions were deleted from our ratings. The restoration of *The Ring* championship belt is the second step of this continuing struggle.

The new belt is modeled after those awarded to legendary champions from Joe Louis to Muhammad Ali. It will be given only to boxers whose claim to a world championship is clear-cut. Whenever possible, the lineage will be traceable to the great fighters who held those same titles in the past.

The first belt was worn by Michael Spinks when he entered the ring to do battle with Mike Tyson. Another will go to the winner of the Julio Cesar Chavez – Jose Luis Ramirez match, which will give the world a true lightweight champion; and so on until all rulers of the traditional eight divisions are so honored.

Yes, one of boxing's grandest traditions is back, and boxing fans can rest assured any man wearing *The Ring* belt is a "true world champion." □

Nigel Collins

"The Bible of Boxing"
Established 1922 by
Nat Fleischer

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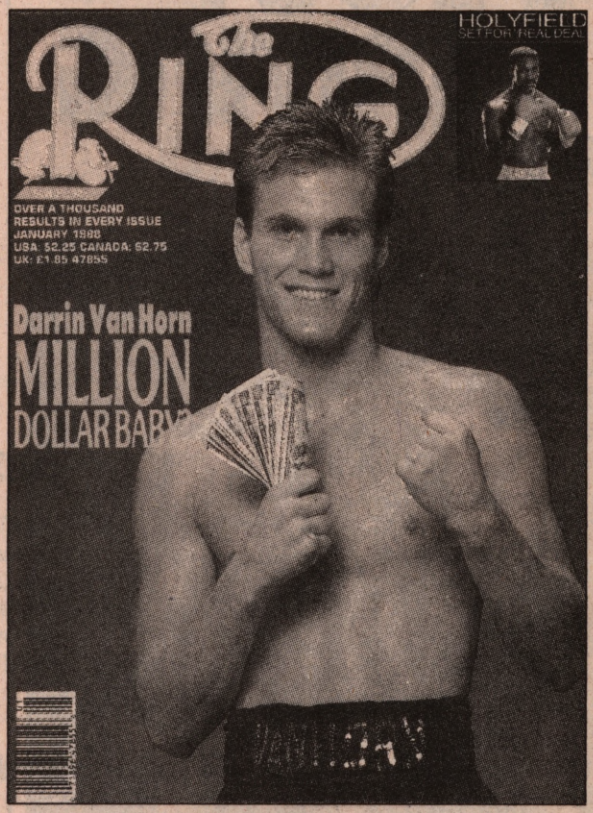
The RING SINCE 1922

"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"



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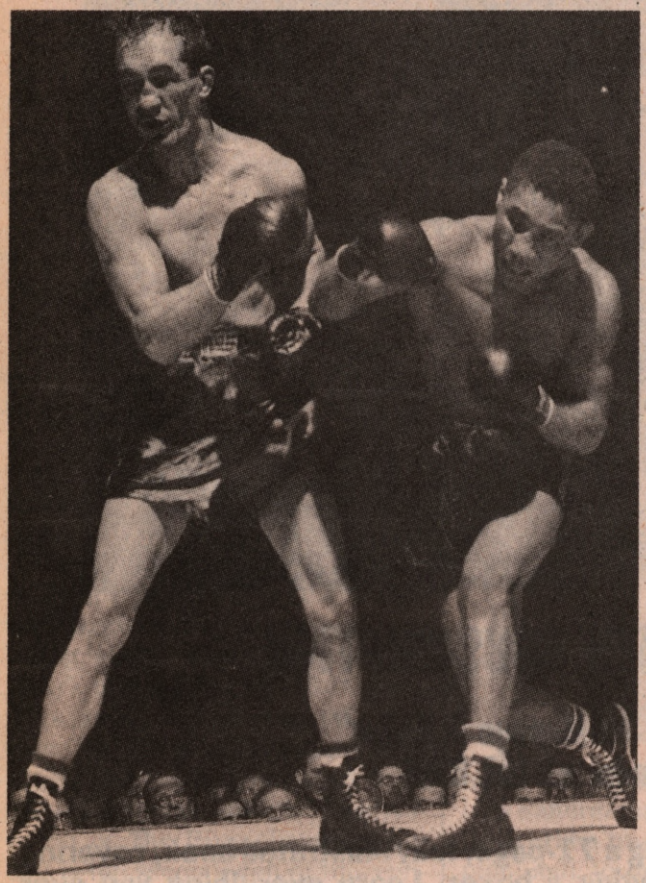
Come Out Writing



Reader Michael Correa wants to know why THE RING didn't include Fritzie Zivic in its rating of middleweight champs. Simple, Zivic never held the 160-pound title. Here's a shot of Fritzie reeling backwards after fielding a hard right from Beau Jack, who outpointed Zivic over 12 rounds.

AUSSIE DEFENDS SPINKS

RE: "BUMMED OUT IN BIRMINGham" ("Come Out Writing," *The Ring*, April '88): Mr. Mills must go to fight nights with his head up his arse if he thinks Michael Spinks is the worst fighter he has ever seen. As for being overrated, Spinks decisively beat and dominated the best light heavies in the world during his reign. In analyzing Spinks' style, Mr. Mills forgot to mention how effective it is ... that's why Spinks is where he is today.

J. PHILIPS
Brisbane, Australia

ZIVIC ZINGER

I AM WRITING YOU ABOUT YOUR July '88 issue in which you rated the top middleweights of all-time. Why the omission of the great Fritzie Zivic? He could have torn most of those other guys in half. He should have been in the top ten.

MICHAEL A. CORREA
(Boxing Fanatic)
Mt. Vernon, NY

Editor's Note: The article you refer to rated the middleweight champions. Though Zivic held the welterweight title for a brief spell, he never wore the middleweight crown; something every "boxing fanatic" should know.

TYSON VERSUS HEROES OF THE PAST

IT IS LUDICROUS TO SUGGEST THAT Mike Tyson could defeat Muhammad Ali in his prime. I'd like to respond to a letter by Ernie Shill in the June '88 issue of *The Ring*, who asked: "could Ali withstand the pounding of Iron Mike?"

Only if Ali laid on the ropes handcuffed and blindfolded. "The Greatest," with his amazing speed and footwork, would have easily frustrated Tyson and exposed him as a wild-swinging amateur.

One needs only to take a close look at the fierce competition Ali faced. Tyson is much in the mold of Joe Frazier. Yet it remains to be seen whether Mike has the sustained power and endurance of Smokin' Joe. He definitely does not have Frazier's polish and inside fighting skills.

George Foreman may be too old to defeat Tyson today, but in his prime he would have decapitated Tyson's leaning head with one of his devastating uppercuts. Take a quick look at George launching Frazier into the air or destroying muscular Ken Norton, both frightening displays of punching power. Foreman would have made short work of Tyson.

There are other quality fighters whom Ali defeated such as Sonny Liston, Ron Lyle and Earnie Shavers, who would have went tooth and nail with Tyson. Ali's results with such fighters speak for themselves. Muhammad's unequaled combination of speed, ring savvy and proven ability to take a punch would have made it easy for him to beat Tyson at this stage of Mike's career. I submit to you that Ali would have stopped Tyson. 'Nuff said.

MONTE COX
Danville, IL

I HAVE BEEN READING *THE RING* FOR about five years. Since Mike Tyson has been on the scene I have read letters from some people saying that Ali, Frazier, Foreman and other fighters of the past could beat Tyson. In recent years, runners are running faster, swimmers swimming faster, high jum-

pers jumping higher and long jumpers are jumping further. So why can't these people accept the fact that boxers are also getting better?

ROBERT EMERSON
Shropshire, England

NOT ONLY WILL TYSON KAYO SPINKS, he will go on to obliterate Marciano's 49-0 record. Tyson would also have pole-axed Ali when Ali was at his dancing best.

J. PLUTO
Philadelphia, PA

WAS ROBINSON OVERRATED AS MIDDLEWEIGHT?

YOUR RATING OF RAY ROBINSON AS the all-time middleweight champion is unrealistic ("Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest," *The Ring*, June '88). Your own listed record against other middleweight champions shows he won 10 and lost eight. Both Marcel Cerdan and Dave Sands would have overpowered him. He was even defeated by Carmen Basilio, a blown-up welterweight. As gifted a fighter as Robinson was, he ducked Holly Mims after a draw and was easily defeated by Ralph "Tiger" Jones, a "light" middleweight. However, Robinson was perhaps the finest welterweight champion.

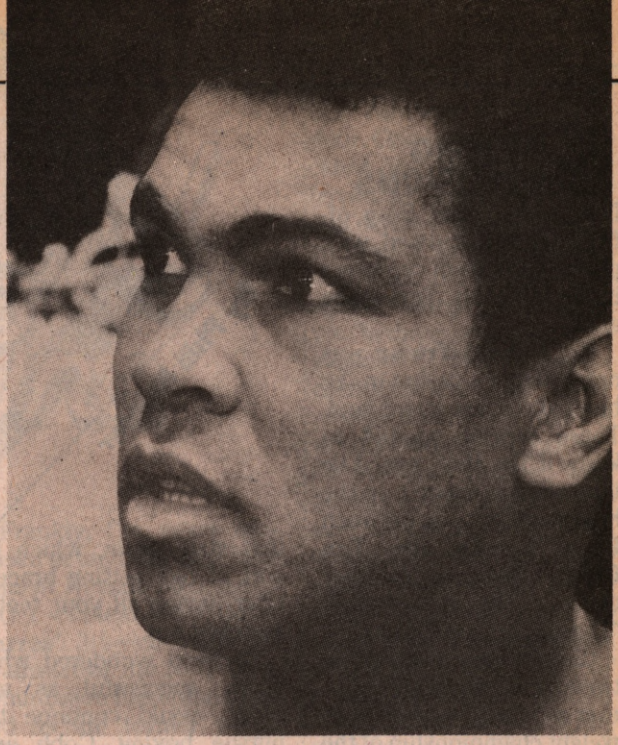
Also, your homage to Larry Holmes was misplaced. Aside from his mouth, the lacing and thumbing he administered throughout his career diminished boxing as a sport. Holmes was a better than average heavyweight. Robinson was a great welterweight. Anything more is mere flattery.

This criticism notwithstanding, *The Ring* magazine remains the greatest.

ED PANOSIAN
Indiantic, FL

YOUR RATING OF THE MIDDLEWEIGHT champions was a disappointment. Certainly, Ketchel, Greb, Walker and Zale were superior to Monzon and Griffith. Greb and Walker fought men who would have scared the "sugar" out of Robinson. Few fighters gave more of themselves than Greb. Hagler was the best of his day, for whatever that's worth.

ROBERT M. FERGUSON
Fort Scott, KS



Reader Monte Cox thinks Muhammad Ali would have stopped Mike Tyson. What's your opinion?

MAYBE NOT!

I AGREE WITH YOUR JUNE '88 ISSUE. Sugar Ray Robinson was perhaps the best of the best, and I go all the way back to the Jess Willard-Jack Dempsey fight — before radio and TV.

CLARK H. HOGAN
Palmerdale, AL

MEN'S ROOM MELODY

HAVING SEEN LOUIE LOMELI IN A few of his traditionally short victories at the Divinci Manor in Chicago, I would have to agree with *The Ring's* appraisal ("New Faces," June '88): it is only a matter of time. He combines the stalking energy of a wildcat with the impassive search-and-destroy attitude of another big cat — Mike Tyson.

Before Lomeli's demolition of Alfonso Sosa in September of '85, I overheard a prediction made by an old gentleman sitting near the door of the men's room at the Divinci. He was playing a guitar and passing out towels to the fight fans when Lomeli's cornerman came in to get some water for his fighter. After finding out which boxer the cornerman represented (and no doubt playing it up for a big tip) he started singing, "Five foot two, eyes of blue, Ol' Louie's gonna knock him out in two . . ."

Lomeli's cornerman left without laying some long green in the singer's hands; maybe because he was in a hurry, or maybe because he was insulted. Lomeli wasn't about to let the fight last that long.

MARK ANDEL
Bensenville, IL

ALPHABET BOYS TRASHED

I LOVE THE WAY YOU WRITE ABOUT the Alphabet Boys. They are a bag of trash. Fighters should be proud of their titles and should not have to think about other "champions." One champion for each division is enough, three are just a waste of time.

W. KELTERER
Vienna, Austria

CONGRATULATIONS ON HAVING THE guts to recognize only the traditional eight weight divisions. Such a move is long overdue as far as true boxing fans are concerned. I have written to the various Alphabet Boys recommending they have a long, hard look at what they, the administrators, are doing to boxing. After reading your editorial in the March '88 issue of *The Ring*, I'll be writing them again in regard to the shortening of title fights to 12 rounds — a totally ridiculous move in light of the relatively few serious accidents in modern boxing. After all, nobody ever said boxing was a safe sport.

ANDRE DE VRIES
Clubview, South Africa

Round One

By Phill Marder

WRONG CONCLUSIONS

Last winter, *The Ring* offices were inundated with phone calls from reporters in the Nashville, Tennessee area.

No, **Donald Trump** was not building a casino in the heart of country music land. These scribes wanted to know if *The Ring* would be interested in reports on the heavyweight bout between **Leon Spinks** and **Tex Cobb.** Ever so politely came the response, "Thanks, but no thanks."

Clearly, this debacle between one man who held — ever so briefly — the heavyweight championship of the world and another — who "fought" for the same championship — was not worthy of first-hand coverage. After all, Spinks was long past his prime as was Cobb, and neither was that great in his prime. In fact, Cobb was so bad he forced **Howard Cosell** out of the game.

Recently, NBC's fight doctor **Ferdie Pacheco** presented an excellent commentary on this match, including interviews with both pugilists and their managers and clips from the bout.

After viewing the piece, it would be hard for anyone to justify the continuance of the boxing career of either. Cobb, who won by decision, could hardly stand by the final round and wound up in the hospital. Spinks, who has been losing with regularity the last few years, didn't have much more left at the end and was belted out in 33 seconds by Canadian sub **Tony Morrison** in his next appearance, which took place in Connecticut. The Connecticut Athletic Commision immediately announced Spinks would be suspended for 30 days and would have to pass a physical before fighting in that state again, which is sort of like getting braces after having all your teeth knocked out.

Pacheco wondered why Cobb, successful as an actor, would continue to pursue boxing. Cobb explained, "This is what I do. I've done it for a long time. It's a fun thing for me, man."

Spinks said, "It's something that's hard to get away from. It's in my heart, in my blood."

Marv Haupt, Spinks' manager, said, "They're not rocket scientists. They have no other means of visible support," and Cobb's manager, Ron Weathers, said, "I couldn't stop him if I wanted to."

Well, someone should be able to stop them and that someone is each individual state. Why were they fighting in Tennessee, where there is little boxing? Why not New Jersey? Because New Jersey would never have allowed the match.

But Pacheco, claiming the brain does not recover from punches as well after the age of 35 as it does before the age of 35, concluded, "Legislation should be enacted preventing a boxer from fighting after he's 35, no matter how famous he is."

Tell that to **Archie Moore** or **Jersey Joe Walcott** or the countless others who achieved great success after the age of 35. They may have been exceptions, but that's exactly our point. There are exceptions to almost every rule. And while we agree with Pacheco's concern for allowing aging boxers to continue, we can't agree with him, or the WBC, for that matter, in making a blanket statement that would cover all cases. Sort of like saying you need a cruiserweight division because **Evander Holyfield** isn't big enough to beat **Mike Tyson,** even though Holyfield is probably big enough to beat any other heavyweight in the top 10.

Each fighter should be dealt with individually. Some are more talented than others, therefore are less apt to be injured. Some are boxers, and less apt to be hit. Neither Cobb nor Spinks was very talented in his prime, and neither was a boxer. Both should be stopped from boxing for their own good. But not because they reached the age of 35.

And here's the kicker. Neither was 35 when the bout took place, so under Pacheco's proposed legislation, the government would have been actually blessing the horrid event!

THE SAGA CONTINUES

As **Mike Tyson** tried to prepare for his June date with **Michael Spinks**, the newspapers continued to keep us informed about the squabbles between Tyson, his manager **Bill Cayton,** promoter **Don King**, and, of course, Tyson's wife, **Robin Givens,** and mother-in-law **Ruth Roper.**

And with all the accusations and counter-accusations flying here, there and everywhere, there was obviously something wrong in the kingdom of the young dynamo. Exactly what and who are to blame has yet to be determined, but we had hoped Tyson would have been the one to avoid such problems. Apparently, he isn't that fortunate.

Then, of course, we were fed a daily dose of information concerning Tyson's donation of a $150,000 Rolls Royce, which was involved in a Manhattan fender-bender that so disgusted Tyson he gave the car away to a couple of Port Authority police officers who came to investigate. The officers then became celebrities when their acceptance of

AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

See "The Saga Continues" for the latest dirt on this big happy family. The center of attraction is, of course, Mike Tyson, who is flanked on the left by manager Bill Cayton and on the right by promoter Don King. Tyson's wife, Robin Givens, is seated immediately behind Tyson's right shoulder, in perfect position to whisper advice, sweet nothins or whatever in her hubby's ear.

Round One

the "gift" was frowned upon by their superiors.

Ah, to have such problems!

DOWN & OUT

Down — **Chuck Minker**, the executive secretary of the Nevada Athletic Commission, came under fire recently for allowing **Sammy Young** to be blasted out by **Engels Pedroza.**

Young, on permanent suspension in New Jersey, was a substitute for Robert Guy, who was injured a week before the fight. Commission chairman Herb Santos said he was unaware of the replacement until just three days before the bout because Minker said "he forgot" to notify him of the change. Santos then called an emergency meeting of the commission to try to get the bout canceled, but the commission members okayed it, anyway!

Minker admitted he knew Young was suspended in New Jersey, but said he got a letter from New Jersey commissioner **Larry Hazzard** saying that if Young's home state of New York would allow him to fight, then so would New Jersey. But Hazzard denied the letter.

"I personally put Sammy Young on suspension in New Jersey," Hazzard told **Alan Rogers** of *The Nevada Appeal.* "He has one of the worst records in the world, and I wouldn't allow him to fight. I want the best for boxing, and this guy is bad for boxing. He'd need 20 straight wins just to get to .500."

Santos said of the other commission members, "I'm really surprised they voted the way they did. I really thought this fight shouldn't take place."

Frankly, I'm never surprised at anything that happens in Nevada boxing.

Out — Meanwhile, **Jose Torres'** 3½-year reign as chairman of the New York commission has come to an end as the former world light heavyweight champion informed the state he was leaving to write a book about Tyson, who is a buddy of Torres.

ROSIN DUST

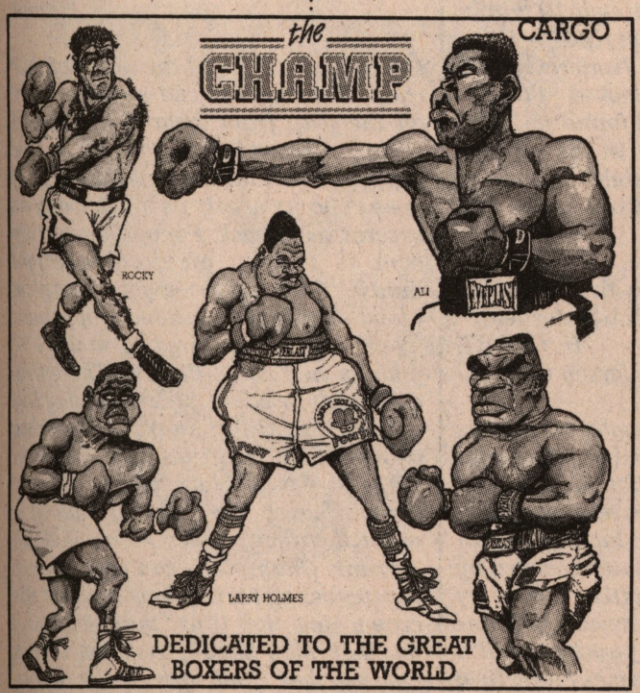
First, some good news as we were informed of the engagement of ace boxing publicist **Jim Taylor** to **Bonnie Peterson,** a Trump employee. Taylor held out for as long as he could and his marriage will be one of the greatest blows ever suffered by the Atlantic City singles scene. Can **Dave Bontempo** be far behind? ... It seems every couple of years a Philadelphia boxer has to get himself blown away for one reason or another. The latest was **Greg "King" Tutt**, who had made appearances at the Blue Horizon on the USA cable network. The 21-year-old Tutt and three other people, including his cousin, were found shot to death in a city rowhouse that appeared rundown from the outside, but was reportedly pretty nice inside. It was equipped with decorative metal grids over the front windows and an intercom, and closed-circuit cameras at the front door. One investigator indicated the shootings may have been drug connected, and neighbors said they had witnessed drug purchases in front of the house. Once again, Round One allows you to draw your own conclusions ... Massachusetts correspondent Jay Miller reports that former middleweight **Douglas J. Mallett**, 29, has been charged with beating a man to death outside his apartment in Providence. The man had apparently complained about noise outside his room! ... **Cargogold Productions** of London sent us a copy of a new rap release entitled "The Champ," but you're not likely to hear it on your radio. The best parts of the record were the cover and inside sleeve which featured caricatures of 18 famous fighters by **Jack Pennington.** They were great, but the record was mediocre ... **Ray Luna,** trainer of such boxing favorites as **Manuel Ortiz** and **Art Aragon,** among others, recently passed away after suffering an apparent heart attack. He was 63.

PUNCH LINES

IBF lightweight kingpin **Greg Haugen,** commenting on his weird technical decision win over Miguel Santana, which saw Haugen unable to continue due to severe cuts, told writer Wallace Matthews, "I thought Santana was from the Bronx, but I found out he was really from the Alps. It was like fighting a mountain goat."

Former boxer **Bill Reynolds,** who recently cut some commercials for Rolling Rock Beer, said that his fighting name was Candle Burns.

"One blow and out," was the explanation provided by Reynolds. □



The record isn't so hot, but artist Jack Pennington provides great caricatures on the English release, "The Champ," reviewed in "Rosin Dust."

Ask The Answerman

By Phill Marder

Was the Marquis of Queensberry in cahoots with Thomas Edison?

Q: I have this habit of going back and re-reading old *Ring* magazines. Tonight, it was the March, 1983 issue, page 49 *Ring Ratings* 40 years ago, middleweights world champion Freddie Steele, Seattle, Washington. I am now looking at the last issue, June, 1988. The one that has *The Ring* rate the middleweight champions. No Freddie Steele, not first, last or in the middle. Okay, Answerman, explain this one. Who's right, *The Ring* then, or *The Ring* now? You both can't be right.

JIM TEFELSKI
Emporia, Kansas

A: *Well, let me tell you folks that Mr. Jim Tefelski of Emporia, Kansas certainly had the old Answerman more than a little worried with this one. After all, I thought I was the only one who had that disturbing habit of going back and re-reading old issues. And Mr. Tefelski is wrong! We both — **The Ring** then and **The Ring** now — can be right! In order for this to occur, **The Ring** in between has to be wrong. Allow me to explain: In 1936, Steele won NBA and New York recognition as middleweight champion with a 15-round win over Babe Risko. He held that distinction until New York withdrew its recognition in 1938. Later that year, he lost his NBA claim when knocked out by Al Hostak in one round. During that time, France's Marcel Thil was recognized as world champion until he was stopped by Fred Apostoli, who then stopped Steele in an overweight match at the outset of 1938. Steele refused a rematch at 160 pounds, prompting New York's reversal on Steele's claim. The confusion seems to stem from the time Thil held the title. The 1944 **Ring Record Book** notes, "Misled by a story published in the **Paris Soir** to the effect that Thil had retired, **The Ring Magazine** listed Fred Steele as world's middleweight champion. The retirement story was denied by Thil, and consequently **The Ring** then supported Thil in his claim that he was still the world's middleweight titleholder." Now that seems to take the old **Ring** off the hook. There was a mistake, but it was quickly rectified. It also takes the new **Ring** off the hook. Steele had claims to the title, but never was awarded recognition as world champion. But one mystery remains unsolved. Mr. Tefelski was reading the March, 1983 issue which does indeed list Ring Ratings 40 years ago. And, indeed, Freddie Steele is listed as middleweight champ. That would be March, 1943. But Freddie Steele retired in 1938 after losing to Hostak, remained inactive through 1939 and 1940, and tried one last time in 1941, when he was KO'd by Jimmy Casino. "The Answerman" looked through every 1943 issue and found no mention of Freddie Steele in the ratings, let alone as middleweight champion. Evidently, the 1983 **Ring** is the culprit!*

Q: Please provide me with information on former light heavy Bob Satterfield.

H. CROWE
Jersey City, NJ

A: *Bob Satterfield fought mainly as a light heavyweight and heavyweight. Born November 9, 1923, he started a 17-month amateur career in 1941, then turned pro under Jack Kearns in 1945, though he was later handled by Ike Bernstein. Fighting out of Chicago, Satterfield proved a genuine crowd-pleaser, a big puncher with a brittle jaw. Thirteen times Satterfield failed to go the distance, being stopped by the likes of Jake LaMotta, Archie Moore, Ezzard Charles and Harold Johnson. But he scored 35 KOs in his 50-25-4 career that lasted until 1957. His victims included Cleveland "Big Cat" Williams, who was knocked out for the first time in his career by Satterfield in the third round in 1954.*

Q: How come some world champions often fight non-title bouts even though they are world champions? If they lose a non-title bout, surely it means the other fighter is more worthy of the title. Also, what were the WAA?

Ireland

A: *We couldn't read the name of this chap, but anyone who sends a letter all the way from Ireland deserves a reply. Champions fight non-title fights for various reasons, although it doesn't occur nearly as much today as several years back. For one, a non-title bout is usually an over-the-weight match, thus welterweight champion Lloyd Honeyghan and an opponent would not be required to make 147 pounds in a non-title bout. Therefore, a champion could pick up a payday without training too hard or worrying about losing his title. Also, he could stay sharp for a future match, as Julio Cesar Chavez did recently, taking a non-title tuneup before facing Rodolfo Aguilar. Champions can also size up future foes by facing them without the crown on the line, then deciding whether they should risk the crown against that challenger or not. Many*

champions would coast in a non-title bout, allowing the opponent to win by decision, thus setting up a lucrative rematch for the title. Today, over-the-weight bouts have become just about extinct with the addition of so many weight classes. If a champion today is a few pounds overweight, rather than lose the weight in a non-title workout, he just moves on to the next weight division and another title! The WAA was or is the World Athletic Association, yet another of boxing's self-appointed sanctioned bodies.

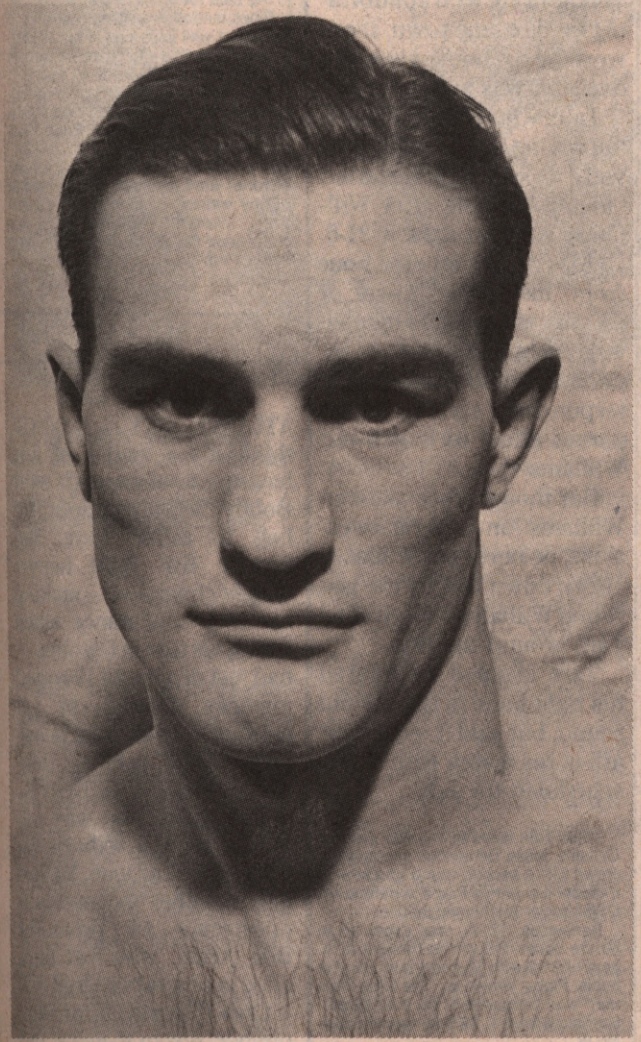
Q: My father says that a round would last until a fighter was knocked down, and then he had 30 seconds to recover but that the Marquis of Queensberry changed the rules to the present three minutes/one minute at the suggestion of Thomas Edison, who anticipated televised fights and commercials. Is this true?

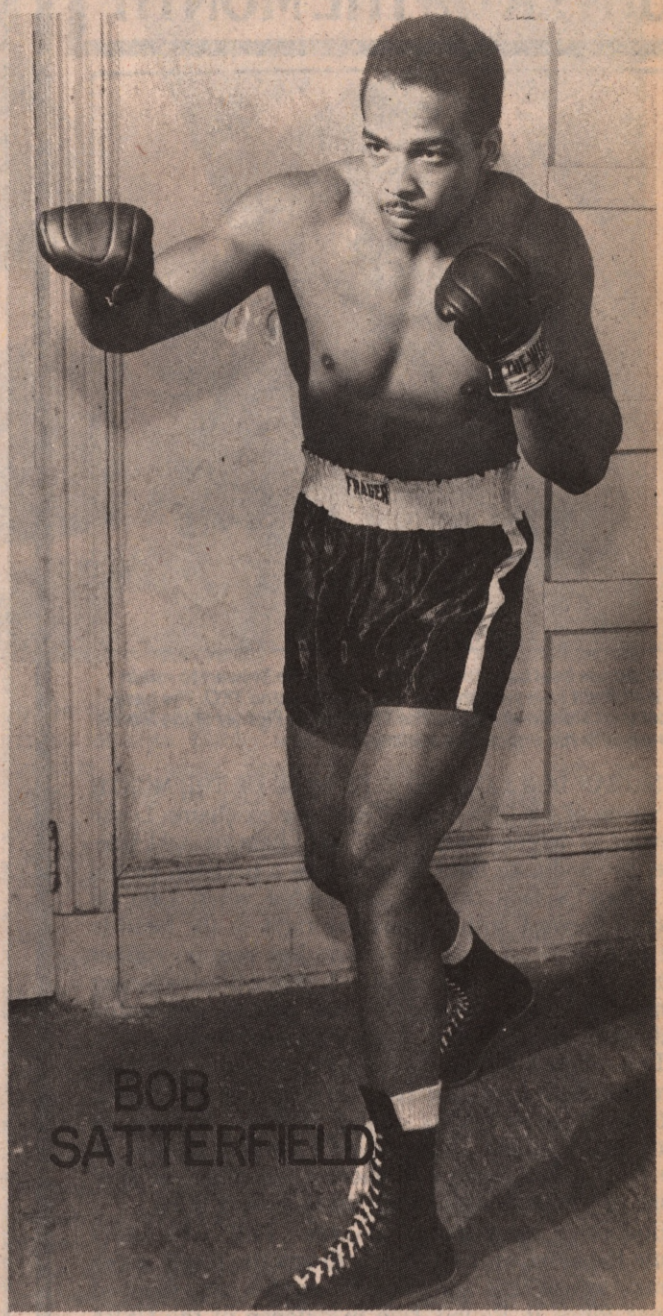
J.V. DALESSANDRO
Philadelphia, PA

A: *Your father knows his boxing. Evidently, he has a great sense of humor, too. Yes, rounds used to end with a knockdown, and the Queensberry rules changed that, among other things. But the Marquis of Queensberry came out with his guidelines in 1865. At that time, Thomas Edison was 18 years old, old enough to have a conversation with the Marquis. But Edison foreseeing television commercials as the reason for one minute rest between each three-minute round is somewhat far-fetched. After all, we're talking Edison here, not Nostradamus.* □

This month "The Answerman" gives reader H. Crowe of Jersey City the low-down on hard-hitting Bob Satterfield.

Confused about Freddie Steele's claim to the middleweight throne? See "The Answerman's" reply to reader Jim Tefelski.





Ring Side Reports

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

Don Lalonde beat back the challenge of Leslie Stewart to retain the WBC light heavyweight belt with a fifth-round TKO. The hard-punching Lalonde also garnered THE RING's Fighter of the Month honors with his impressive victory.

CANADIAN DON LALONDE IS FIGHTER OF THE MONTH by virtue of his fifth-round TKO over ex-champ Leslie Stewart in defense of the WBC light heavyweight title. The give-and-take bout, held before a partisan crowd of Stewart's fans in Trinidad, ended when Lalonde floored Stewart with a smashing right to the head in the fifth. Stewart beat the count, but was on rubber legs as Lalonde resumed his attack. When the challenger continued to soak up punches, the referee terminated matters to spare Stewart further punishment.

This month's runner-up is Kaokor Galaxy, who captured the WBA bantamweight belt with a 12-round, split decision over defending champ Wilfredo Vasquez in Bangkok, Thailand. Galaxy's twin brother, Kaosai, is the WBA junior bantam titleholder. They are the first twins to simultaneously hold world boxing titles.

Honorable mentions go to Jesus Poll, who upset Louie Espinoza over 12 rounds to win the NABF super bantamweight title, and Jesse Benavides, who stopped James Pipps in Round Two in defense of the USBA version of the 122-pound title. □

TATE – WILLIAMS

HOUSTON — IBF MIDDLEweight titleholder Frank Tate tuned up for his defense against Michael Nunn with a non-title 10-round decision victory over Sanderline Williams in the George Brown Convention Center.

Tate won two cards 97-94, with the third judge scoring 97-93 in his favor. Though Tate won comfortably in his home town, there were many boos when the decision was announced.

Tate, who weighed 163 in improving his record to 23-0 with 13 knockouts, started quickly, chasing after Williams, who brought a 21-5, 13 KOs record into the bout from his home town of Cleveland. A 1984 Olympic gold medalist, Tate abandoned his successful counterpunching style in an apparent effort to knock out Williams early.

But though Tate did stun Williams on several occasions, he never put Williams, 162¾, down and by the last round Williams was chasing Tate around the ring.

Tate claimed he injured his right hand in the second round, but said it would not affect his match with Nunn, scheduled for July.

While Tate failed to impress, Corpus Christi's Jesse Benavides stunned the crowd with a second-round knockout of Pasadena's James Pipps to defend his USBA junior featherweight title.

Benavides, 121¾, was expected to be the boxer, though he brought a record of 21-0 with 16 knockouts into the battle. Pipps, known as "The Little Warrior," was supposed to be the slugger, sporting a 36-1-1, 29 KOs record heading in.

But Benavides had things his own way from the opening bell. Pipps, 122, was the aggressor, but the southpaw Benavides found him easy to hit and was pummeling him in a corner before the first round was half through. Finally, Pipps countered with a left hook to the chin that moved Benavides back. But just as the bell sounded, Benavides landed a straight left to the chin of Pipps.

In the second round, three straight lefts by Benavides pushed Pipps back and Benavides brought his guard down with a right hook to the gut. Benavides quickly followed with a left hook to the chin, and Pipps rocked back as Benavides landed a right behind the ear. Pipps was on his way down when Benavides nailed him with a solid left hook to the chin for good measure.

Pipps landed in a sitting position and appeared well in control of his senses. But he made little effort to beat the count of referee Robert Gonzalez.

The time of the knockout was announced as 2:50, but there was over a minute remaining when Pipps was counted out.

In a middleweight six-rounder, Chuck Gardner lifted his mark to 5-0 with one KO by winning a unanimous decision over Warren Williams. Gardner punctuated the win by decking Williams in the third.
(5-29-88)

ANDRIES – CZYZ

ATLANTIC CITY — "I DON'T think it's a matter of not having it anymore," said Bobby Czyz afterwards. We beg to differ. Czyz, the former IBF light heavyweight champion — making his first appearance since losing his title in October — had just dropped a 10-round majority decision to yet another former light heavy champ (WBC version), Dennis Andries, 175½, Detroit.

The upset loss was not only a serious setback for Czyz, 175, Wanaque, NJ, but also a rather inconvenient occurrence for promoter Bob Arum, who had penciled in a lucrative Virgil Hill – Czyz title match for September; not to mention the

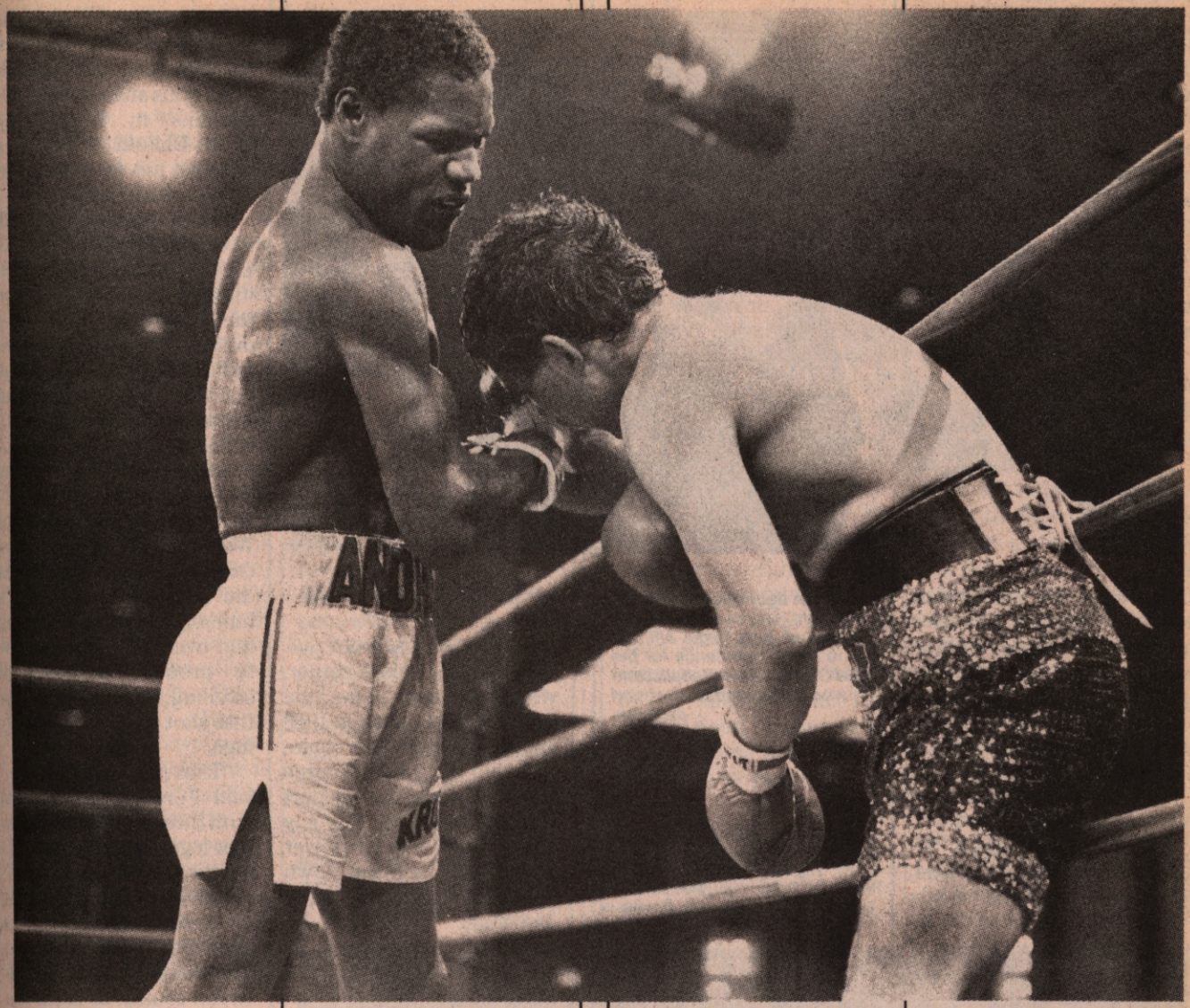


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO

Dennis Andries clips Bobby Czyz with a right to the chin en route to an upset victory in a battle of former light heavyweight titleholders in Atlantic City.

rather substantial payday lost for Hill. No word of a Hill-Andries get-together was mentioned in its place. (Actually, Arum is now trying to make Hearns-Obelmejias for that date, with Thomas going for his fifth title, Fully's newly won WBA super middleweight belt).

The Sunday matchup at Bally's Park Place Hotel-Casino was pretty much nondescript. It was devoid of knockdowns, thunderous punching, classic boxing or unbridled aggression. It was a somewhat sluggish affair with the tentative Czyz facing the awkward Andries. If it were not for it being Bobby "Matinee Idol" Czyz versus a fellow ex-titleholder, there would have been nothing here demanding undivided attention or prolific reams of copy.

Czyz had the upper hand early on, but it was nearly by default. Neither man could put together a sustained attack and Czyz showed little resemblance to the fighter famous for vicious assaults. Bobby was picking his spots, apparently willing to pick up points rather than a KO against his unconventional foe. For the first part of the bout he was relatively effective.

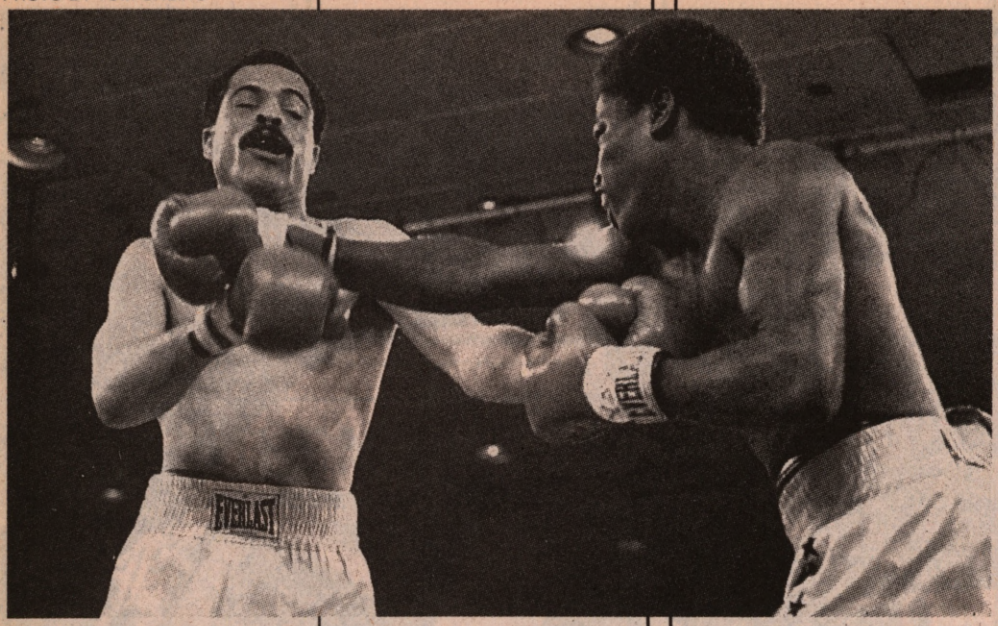
Czyz swept the first round and had a 7-1-1 edge in votes in rounds four, five and six to lead on two of the cards at that point. The problem was that this was a 10-round bout and, according to the judges, Dennis took all honors in those remaining sessions to pick up the win.

At the post-fight press conference, the winner said he didn't think Czyz was in the best of shape and that, "I quickened the pace, had to push him back."

Quite naturally, it was the defeated Czyz who dominated the question and answers gathering. He made no excuses, saying Andries, "was stronger then I thought and extremely awkward. Some things I miscalculated. I couldn't get my timing down. I paid too much attention to what he was doing rather then what I should have been doing."

Very well said (as always) Bobby, and even though Czyz said that at age 26 he wants to box for another four years, he should re-

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO



evaluate his priorities. Never much of a defensive genius, Czyz now finds himself a reluctant puncher coming off two straight defeats that have lowered his log to 32-3 with 23 KOs. Andries upped his mark to 31-7-2 with 17 KOs. Referee, Vinnie Rainone.

Scores: Lynn Carter, 98-93. Frank Brunette, 96-94, both for Andries. While John Riley agreed with *The Ring*, handing in a card of 95-95.

Veteran lightweight Terrence Alli (right) scores with a right to the face of Jerry Page. Alli had too much experience for the 1984 Olympic gold medalist and won a unanimous 10-round decision.

In another televised bout, Terrence Alli, 140, NYC, proved too strong and aggressive for neophyte pro Jerry Page, 142, Columbus, Ohio, taking a 10-round unanimous decision. Page, the 1984 Olympic 139-pound champion, whose record fell to 8-1 with four KOs, was trying to leap frog right into the thick of contender country with Alli, and while he showed heart in sticking it out, he was never really in the hunt.

The always energetic Alli found a slick but immobile Page easy to penetrate, flooring him in the third with a left hook. By fight's end Jerry's right eye was virtually closed. Page did, however, dig down deep inside and landed the bout's prettiest combination late in the ninth. Both went all out in the final stanza of a pleasing contest.

The referee was Steve Smoger. Scores: Brunette, 99-90, while both Carter and Riley had it 98-91. *The Ring* card read 100-90, giving Alli a 10-8 dominance in the third and calling the fourth even. Terrence is now listed at 37-5-2 with 14 KOs; 24-1-1 in Atlantic City.

In an artless but action-packed bang-bang affair, Dean Meadows, 160¼, Lexington, Ky., had to settle for a six-round draw with Ed Priester, 160¾, Philadelphia. At best, the judges could only agree on three of the rounds, with Carter having it 58-56 for Meadows, Riley 59-55 for Priester and Brunette, 57-57. *The Ring* card read 58-56 for Meadows. Ref Smoger. Meadows is 6-1-1 with three kayoes, while Priester is 7-6-1 with two kayoes.

Mark Miller, 144¾, Cinn., Ohio, gave Anthony Andrews, 145¼, NYC, a rather thorough mugging in posting a six-round, unanimous decision. Scores: Carter and Riley voted 59-55, while Brunette saw it 58-56. *The Ring* card read 60-55. The ref was Rainone. Miller is 10-1 with seven wins by KO, Andrews falls to 11-5-1.

Darryl Holly, 145¾, Brigantine, NJ, squeezed by debuting Julio Perez, 149½, NYC, via a four-round majority decision. Holly dominated the first, but the bullying Perez took Round Two. In the third and fourth, Holly brought the right uppercut into play, and that punch saved the day. Scores: Carter 38-38. Riley 39-37 and Brunette, 40-37. Ref, Rainone.

Switch-hitting Roosevelt Walker, 151¼, Newark, NJ brought his record to 3-0 with two kayoes when he won a scheduled four-rounder by TKO at 2:52 of the second over Drew Hayes, 155, Pleasantville NJ. After an even Round One, Hayes got nailed by a right hand while against the ropes. He went down, but amazingly got up, only to be floored again. He struggled up once more, and just when it appeared referee Smoger would let it go on, Hayes' corner yelled to have it stopped.

Timekeeper: Arthur Spell.
Promoter: Top Rank Inc.
Matchmaker: Ron Katz.
Television: NBC.
(5-22-88)

JACK OBERMAYER

FOREMAN – WILLIAMS

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA — Throughout his career, which brought him the Olympic gold medal in 1968 and the heavyweight championship in 1973, George Foreman could always hurt what he could hit. The guy always had enough power in his fists to bring down buildings without the aid of dynamite.

Well, it seems none of that is different in this new, second boxing career Foreman has embarked upon. In his ninth straight win since making a comeback early last year after a 10-year layoff, Foreman expended little energy in knocking out Frank "Gator" Williams in the third round of a scheduled 10 after flooring Williams three times.

Although Williams, of Leclaire, Iowa, who also fights under the name Lux, is not a small man, at 6-1, 208 pounds he was dwarfed by the immense Foreman, who, at 6-4, 243, came in eight pounds heavier than his last fight, which saw him dispense of Dwight Muhammad Qawi. He can still fill a doorway.

"He did look big," said Williams, who used to wrestle alligators and handle poisonous snakes at Reptile Gardens in Rapid City, South Dakota. "I thought it was just me. How tall is he, about seven feet?"

For Foreman, 54-2 with 51 knockouts, Williams, 33-15-3, provided little competition. The two had fought on the same cards three times during Foreman's recent fight-by-fight tour of the country, and Foreman knew Williams was not a runner. In fact, Foreman seemingly knew everything Williams could do and subsequently blocked each of Williams' overhand rights. One left hook by Williams did sneak past Foreman's lumberjack arms, nicking him over the right eyebrow to produce a post-fight swelling. But the price for that shot was exceptionally high.

"That did it, right there," said Foreman. "I got him with those body shots. I saw that leg pull up. It just made a sitting duck out of him."

It was pretty clear Williams would soon become a dead duck. In the second, Foreman, who stood between rounds as is his custom, continued to sweep Williams out of the way with body shots, then staggered him with an uppercut. Rather than finish it, Foreman turned and walked away, letting Williams recover. But near the end of the round, he put Williams down with another uppercut.

In the third, another uppercut put Williams on his rear, and the end came from a series of combinations. Williams was defenseless when his cornermen jumped in before referee Pat Carruthers of Juneau could count. It was "See ya' later alligator" at 2:07.

After, Williams, as witty as buddy "Tex" Cobb,

asked, "Why didn't I bring in a foreign object like the wrestlers do and pull it out of my sock?"

Foreman, who headed back to Houston figuring he is one step closer to fighting for the heavyweight championship, came across as new and improved in his nine-day stay in Alaska. He signed autographs for all comers, cooperated with the press and made a guest appearance as a preacher at a local church. He also taped spots for the Missing Children of America Fund that were telecast by the SCORE cable network, which televised the bout.

What still isn't clear is who is taking Foreman seriously during this comeback. Only 1,584 fans turned out at the 8,000-seat Sullivan Arena, where fights involving Alexis Arguello, Gerry Cooney and Hector Camacho had drawn more. Foreman, who insists he is 39, not 40, seems to still be considered an over-the-hill fighter ducking top competition. but he says he'll fight anyone in the top 10 as long as he doesn't have to sign options for additional fights with a Don King or a Bob Arum.

Foreman did express hope for a Mike Tyson victory over Michael Spinks, saying of Tyson, "He's so egotistical, he might give me a chance."

With the current state of the heavyweight division, where rankings are filled with inactive names and active nobodies, who's to say it will never happen?

On the undercard, Bob Quarry, 203, Bakersfield, California, knocked out Steve Cortez, 235, Medford, Oregon, when Cortez didn't come out for the second round of the scheduled four. Quarry, 11-3-1, is the younger brother of former heavyweight contender Jerry Quarry.

Doug Holman, 160, Portland, Oregon, stopped Noe Ramirez, 159, Seattle, at 2:59 of the ninth of the scheduled 10-round semifinal. This was a rematch of a bout fought two years ago that ended with the same result.

Rocky Pepeli, Des Moines, Iowa, KO'd Dean Bethune, Fairbanks, Alaska, at 2:40 of the first. Pepeli, 3-0, almost knocked Bethune out of the ring, but Bethune was caught by his cornermen halfway through the ropes before he landed on the cement floor. The heavies were scheduled for six.

Bob Cook, 165, Houston, won by TKO at 2:31 of the fourth and final round over Phil Moore, Palmer, Alaska.

Darrin Wood, 150, Anchorage, Alaska, scored a TKO at 45 seconds of the second round over Dave Kotalik, 152, Anchorage.

Steve Harvey, 180, Eugene, Oregon, won a four-round, unanimous decision over Ed Jones, 182, Reno, Nevada.

Promoters: Joe Capetti Productions.

Announcer: Eddie West.

(5-21-88)

LEW FREEDMAN

GROVE – TAYLOR

IBF Featherweight Title

ATLANTIC CITY — ACTION-packed fights are often the result of neither fighter possessing the skills to do otherwise. These two won't get accused of that. Yet champion Calvin Grove, who retained his title with a unanimous 15-round decision, and late sub Myron Taylor still managed an entertaining and well-fought contest. Maybe the only real loser was original challenger Bernard Taylor, out with an alleged ear injury in training, who may find it difficult getting back into rotation. The victorious Grove next plans a foreign swing against host-nation foes.

Myron, for his part , did nothing to disgrace himself in an opportunity which came largely as the result of luck, timing and "connections," rather than significant wins. The comebacking Philadelphian, 124¾, had failed in key bouts throughout his 23-6-2 career, including one against Bernard Taylor. Since returning under the banner of Madison Square Garden, he'd gone 3-0-1 versus unranked opposition. But Myron was prepping for a Felt Forum date just five days earlier when the call came in. Bobby Goodman magnanimously let him out of his obligation and The Sands Hotel Casino was spared having to reprint all its "Grove vs. Taylor" advertising!

Fans likely got a more pleasing match, and Grove, 125¾, Coatesville, PA, a better opportunity to showcase his wares. Against Bernard, the two stylists might have pranced around like caged tigers. With Myron, the door was open!

"When I heard of the change of opponents, I was so happy," exclaimed Grove. "I think we all know that Bernard . . . likes to run like blazes and that I would do all of the chasing. Myron will be standing right in front of me."

The two were gym mates years back, and Grove obviously felt comfortable with the experience.

Taylor didn't disappoint, either the fans or Grove. He kept up a steady pressure, but the champion was just too classy overall. Myron tried the body, but got mostly elbows. When he went to the head, Grove usually wasn't there. He

IBF featherweight champ Calvin Grove connects with a left to the head of challenger Myron Taylor. Grove retained his title with a 15-round unanimous decision.

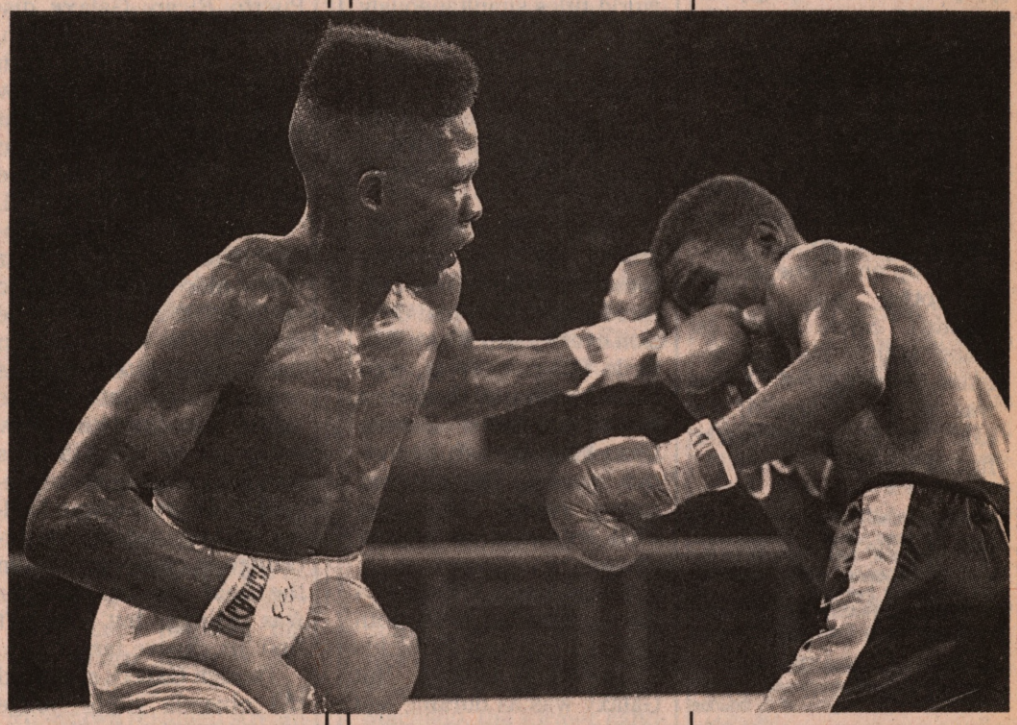


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO

wasn't halfway across the ring, either. This was no barnburner, but the crisp exchanges and near misses kept it tense. The tightness of many of the rounds was reflected in the breakdown. Though the defender won a comfortable, unanimous verdict, the officials agreed on only six of the 15 sessions.

The chess match opened up in the eighth, when both contestants decided to go for checkmate. A whistling right sent Myron's mouthpiece flying, but Grove whirlwinded out. From there on, the challenger seemed less and less able to decide what he wanted to do. But he can boast he went the true championship distance, a benchmark in its own right as the sport continues to be degraded by bumbling panderers.

John Stewart scored 148-138, Phil Newman 147-140, and Rocky Castellani 147-139. Randy Neumann refereed.

The Taylor camp inevitably pinned the loss on being prepared for only 10 rounds, though Myron was far behind at that point as well. But the fighter gave the winner his due.

"I've never seen someone who can move the way Calvin moves, and he did it for a full 15 rounds," Taylor declared. "He'd go one way, then stop on a dime and go the other way. I just couldn't catch him." In going 32-0 in his first defense, Grove agreed. "There was no quit in Myron," he said. "But I was the better fighter tonight."

Rugged John Refuse, 142, Malden, Mass., mowed down Kenneth Kidd, 137½, Jackson, Tenn., at 2:25 of the fourth in a scheduled eight. The skilled, but somewhat frail Kidd couldn't hold off the reckless Rafuse, getting dropped a second time for the count. Ref, Tony Perez.

In a wild and woolly affair, Mike DeVito, 177½, Cleveland, made judicious use of the right haymaker to bounce china-chinned Victor Dominguez, 180, Carolina, PR, off the canvas once in the second, twice in the third, and once more in the fourth. Ref Paul Venti couldn't take it any more, and stopped the scheduled six at 2:07 of the fourth.

Vernon Phillips, 149¾, Troy, NY, impressed with a thorough lacing of dangerous Bill Robinson, 154, Brooklyn, in a scheduled six. With both fighting out of shallow stances, Phillips couldn't seem to miss Robinson with the left hook, finally dumping him for a TKO at 1:23 of the third. Ref, Venti.

A sneering Willie "The Slice" McNeal, 130, Phila., returned and put away heralded Bruce Becker, 130½, Amherst, OH, via Brigantine, NJ, in ignominious fashion. Becker was dropped and halted at 1:05 of the third, in an ugly, foul-ridden bout scheduled for four. Willie proved a "sore winner," and wanted more of Bruce, 'til driven off by ref Perez.

Promoter: Josephine Abercrombie & Stan Hoffman (HBA Inc.).
Matchmaker: Ron Katz.
Attendance: 800 (SRO).
TV: ESPN.
Judges (undercard): Eugene Grant, William Kostrub & John Poturaj.
(5-17-88)

J.R. JOWETT

GALAXY – VASQUEZ
WBA Bantamweight Title

BANGKOK — THERE HAVE been several sets of brothers who have held world titles, Joe and Vince Dundee, Leon and Michael Spinks, Bruce and Donald Curry, Ricardo and Prudencio Cardona and Ricardo and Rene Arredondo, for example.

But never had twins held world titles simultaneously until Kaokor Galaxy captured the WBA bantamweight title to join his twin brother Kaosai, who holds the WBA junior bantam crown, as a world titleholder.

Galaxy, 118, pressed the action, survived a fifth-round knockdown and captured a split, 12-round decision over Puerto Rico's Wilfredo Vasquez, 117½, who had won his title October 4 when he halted Korean Chan-Yong Park in 10 furious rounds. The partisan crowd roared when the Thai lefty was called the winner.

Vasquez was known as a terrific puncher with both fists, having iced 29 of his 31 previous victims. But Galaxy was as durable and pugnacious as his brother, with better defense, too.

Vasquez may have underestimated Galaxy as he stunned him with his opening blows, keeping Galaxy retreating to avoid his hard punches. But Galaxy, who would turn 29 six days later, kept his distance and won the second session with southpaw lefts. Vasquez came forward in the third, looking to land his left hook despite taking some sharp counters.

In the fourth, Galaxy took a combination near the ropes and went down, but referee Nate Morgan of Chicago failed to issue a count, ruling a slip. The Thai promptly stood up, but his legs appeared a bit paralyzed due to the damage, and Vasquez went all-out for the kill. Galaxy, showing good upper-body movement, managed to last the round.

Perhaps Vasquez expended too much energy in that session because he became less aggressive, and the cool Galaxy took control in rounds six and seven, countering the flatfooted Puerto Rican. Galaxy displayed his best in the eighth, catching Vasquez with heavy combos of southpaw right hooks and straight lefts. He pinned Vasquez to the ropes and this time the titleholder needed the bell.

Encouraged by his manager, Manny Siaca, Vasquez threw more punches in the ninth, but this was to be the last round he would take. In the 10th and 11th there was less action, but Vasquez was visibly too tired to throw many blows and Galaxy's few, but accurate, shots prevailed. Aware he was leading, Galaxy refused to exchange in close quarters in the final session. Vasquez was willing, but couldn't find his elusive target.

Though Galaxy appeared the obvious victor, judge Lou Moret of Los Angeles voted for Vasquez, 114-113, a call jeered by the crowd. Stanley Berg of Chicago tallied 115-113 and Argentina's Oscar Coronel called it 115-112 in favor of Galaxy, who improved to 18-0 with 14 KOs. Vasquez fell to 31-4-2 with 29 KOs.

Galaxy became the first Thai to hold a world bantamweight title, Chamron Songkitrat, Venice Borkorsor and Thanomjit Sikothai all having failed before him.

"At the start, Vasquez looked so sharp that I thought I would not be able to beat him," said Galaxy. "After the sixth round, however, I realized that his punches began to lose their initial power. Then, I had confidence to win this game as it progressed. I am happy to be able to respond to the great expectations of the Thai people."

Siaca replied angrily and gloomily, "You cannot fight the judges. But Wilfredo did the champion's fight to deserve a decision. I will file an official protest against the verdict with the WBA."

Vasquez may deserve a rematch, but this decision seemed correct.

In the semifinal 10, Kaosai, the younger brother of Kaokor, engaged in a non-title 10 and halted ex-OPBF ruler Sung-Kap Song in the seventh. Kaosai, 36-1 with 32 knockouts, took a shower immediately following this win, then encouraged his twin from his corner.

Promoter: Niwat Laosuwanwat.
Matchmaker: Pol Tiglao.
Physician; Yuth Potharamik.
(5-9-88)

JOE KOIZUMI

LORA – LOPEZ
WBC Bantamweight Title

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA — Miguel "Happy" Lora, 118, Colombia, survived a knockdown in the second round and retained his WBC bantamweight crown with a unanimous decision in 12 rounds over Lucio Metralleta "Machine Gun" Lopez, 117¾, of Argentina.

A long and hard right hook to the face by Lopez dropped Lora in a fight that was delayed 40 minutes by rain and a blackout in the Cartagena de Indias Bullring. Organization by the promoters and commission was very bad.

Lopez persisted in using a body attack and had the better of the action in close, but Lora, using a good jab and one-two combinations, little by little controlled action in the center of the ring. In the 11th and 12th, Lora danced and boxed his way around Lopez, who proved a hard puncher with either hand.

By the end of the bout, refereed by Puerto Rico's Ismael Quinones, both had swollen right eyes.

The scoring was 116-113, 115-112 and 114-113 for Lora, who pushed his record to 29-0 with 14 knockouts, while Lopez dipped to 27-2-1 with 19 stoppages.

"Lopez caught me with a long right and dropped me in the second, and I felt the blow," said Lora, who was also cut by the left eye. "He attacked me, but I can recover. It was the hardest blow of the fight, but Lopez hits hard with the right and left."

Lopez noted, "The decision was very close, but I am young, 26, and I will win the championship in another opportunity."

Lopez added, "Lora hit me with his knee and that hurt me during the fight. He is dirty."

On the undercard, Colombian Tomas Molinares, 151, TKO'd Panamanian Eric Perea in the fourth of a scheduled 10. Referee Rafael Meza intervened when Molinares was pounding Perea with both hands as the visitor, inactive for several months, was trapped against the ropes. Molinares, tuning up for Marlon Starling, suffered two cuts by the right eye in the opening round, but still improved his record to 23-0.

Rafael Zuniga suffered a knockdown and a cut in his right eyebrow, but managed a unanimous decision over Hugo Orlando Ramirez, the sparring partner of Lopez. Ramirez kissed the canvas twice in the first round. Zuniga is 16-0-2.

Colombian prospect Francisco Tejedor took a unanimous, 10-round decision over Panama's Roy Thompson in a flyweight bout.

Promoter: Julio Guerrero & Associates.

Attendance: 15,000 (est.).

(4-30-88)

LUIS A. GONZALEZ V.

GAMEZ – YOKOZAWA

WBA Minimumweight Title

TOKYO — THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED 105-pound class is called strawweight by the WBC, minimumweight by the WBA and mini-flyweight by the Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation. Any of the names will do, but we must stop creating any new classes. No mas!

Unbeaten Venezuelan Leo Gamez, the WBA minimumweight titleholder, 105, stood just five feet tall, but showed superiority in speed and skill in stopping Japanese challenger Kenji Yokozawa, 104½, at 1:25 of the third round of a scheduled 12.

The defense was the first for Gamez, who became the first WBA titleholder of this new division via a controversial decision over Bong-Jun Kim in 12 heats in Korea last January.

Gamez was not what he had been against Kim. From the start, he accurately outpunched the nervous challenger with jabs, one-twos and left hooks. A well-timed countering right uppercut by Gamez ripped the lower lip of the lefty Japanese, and a right to the face opened a gash under the left eyebrow of Yokozawa.

Gamez, dubbed "Torito" (small bull) in Venezuela, commenced punching from all angles in Round Two. Kenji attempted to hit the bread basket to stop the titleholder's faster mobility, but Gamez battered him with sharp counters and combinations and Yokozawa resumed streaming blood again. Midway in the round, Gamez caught Yokozawa with a smashing right to the button. Kenji hit the deck on the seat of his trunks, but he wasn't hurt badly and promptly raised himself to beat the count.

The gory challenger was saved by the bell to be treated desperately by his cornermen.

The third and fatal session was so lopsided and the red ribbon of blood dripping from Yokozawa's mouth became so heavy that Bernie Soto, a veteran referee from Miami, didn't hesitate to declare a halt. No spectators protested the third man's early stoppage.

Yokozawa had been a criticized challenger by local experts as he had compiled a mediocre record of 10-7-2 with just three knockouts. But the previously frequent loser seized the new national 105-pound title by decisioning Yasuo Yogi in a Japanese title eliminator November 29 after moving down from the 108-pound division, was rated sixth by the WBA and was zooming up to fourth prior to his crack at the world throne.

Gamez will be obliged to accept the challenge of Kim within 60 days according to the WBA, and if Gamez comes in as well prepared as he did for this fight, he'll have a good chance at defeating the persistent Kim in their grudge rematch.

Gamez, 24, raised his credentials to 18-0 with 12 KOs. Born in Parmana Village August 8, 1963, as one of 12 brothers and sisters, Gamez, whose real name is Silvio Rafael, began his amateur career at 14, compiling a record of 70-6 before entering the paid ranks. Managed by Ramiro Machado, the former handler of Antonio Cervantes, Gamez was fortunate to be around for the birth of this new weight class.

Promoter: Hitoshi Misako.

Judges: Luis Rivera, Marcos Torres & Dong-An Park.

Attendance: 3,000 (est.).

TV: Fuji TV (Japan) & Canal Cuatro (Venezuela).

(4-24-88)

JOE KOIZUMI

McGUIGAN – PEREZ

MUSWELL HILL, ENGLAND — While it may not have been the earth-shattering occasion our friends across the Atlantic would have us believe, it certainly was nice to see former world featherweight champion Barry McGuigan back in action.

McGuigan had been inactive 22 months since losing his championship to Steve Cruz. The death of his father kept McGuigan on the sidelines longer than the boxing public desired and, for awhile, McGuigan wasn't sure he would ever fight again.

But finally, there he was, stopping beatable Nicky Perez, the NABF super featherweight titleholder, on a four-round TKO.

Cut by the eye in the third round, McGuigan used his left hook to drop Perez in the fourth. Perez got up, but McGuigan dropped him again with some more left hooks.

Again Perez rose, but referee Sid Nathan chose to end his suffering at 1:55.

The crowd at the Alexandra Palace cheered lustily when the Tucson veteran was not allowed to continue, as did promoter Frank Warren and IBF president Bob Lee, who can foresee a match between McGuigan and his organization's junior lightweight kingpin, Rocky Lockridge.

(4-20-88)

RANDOM CRITICISMS

By Joseph D'O'Brian

AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

Mike Tyson, pictured here with his bride Robin Givens, is the first recipient of Joe D'O'Brian's "You Coulda Done Us Proud Award."

THE OSCARS, TONYS AND GRAMMIES have all come and gone; the Cannes Film Festival just became history this week; all that's left are the Nobel Prizes. That's not enough, I daresay, to satisfy the average person's desire to discover who has won what lately. It is with great pleasure, therefore, that I introduce my own awards. These will not be annual awards; they'll simply be given out whenever I feel like it.

Also, these will not be awards for excellence in boxing. Instead, they'll be awards for excellence in showing up all the worst aspects of this sport, as personified by a single fighter, ringside official, promoter, governor or other boxing notable.

I will call these awards the Poor Dumb Sap Awards, or PDSs. The recipient of each award will vary with the occasion, of course, but I will, in each case, nominate a permanent honorary donor. If this guy doesn't want to be the honorary donor, he can simply refuse by not showing up at the awards ceremony, which will not take place anyway. Dead honorary donors can spin in their graves or not, as the fancy strikes them.

Recipients of these awards can claim their prizes by contacting me in care of *The Ring*. The prize, in each case, consists of a personal, signed letter from me, containing one of my favorite dirty jokes.

The awards, in the proud tradition of *Esquire*, are handed out in recognition of dubious achievements within the past calendar year, give or take a couple of months. Here goes:

The **Boy, Couldn't You Just See This Coming? Award** (Gerry Cooney, honorary donor): To **Mark Breland**, who everyone more or less agreed would be the next big thing in the median weight classes. The plan was simply that he would win everything in sight because he was incredible, and would remain welterweight champion of the world until he got big enough to fight as a middleweight. Sort of like Gerry Cooney, who would inexorably have become heavyweight champ for as long as he wanted it, because he, too, was incredible.

Well, even incredible fighters get beaten now and then. Joe Louis proved that; so did Willie Pep and Ray Robinson and even Jack Johnson. But truly incredible fighters take the defeat in stride, resolve to improve themselves so that it won't happen again, and eventually prevail. Overrated hype-jobs lose once and are so devastated that they never fight a good fight again as long as they live.

I saw this happening with Cooney. He was, I'll admit, a pretty special fighter. He really did look like he might

be able to beat anyone. The only problem was, as soon as his management acquired a good opinion of his abilities, they started protecting him, matching him up (once a year at most) against some palooka who had no business being within 50 yards of a boxing glove.

The problem with this strategy is that no fighter is so stupid that he won't realize what's going on. My theory is that Cooney knew he was being protected, and concluded from this that he wasn't really that good after all. Otherwise, why wasn't he fighting somebody who would have a chance against him? And that, finally, messed up his head to the extent that his one loss to Larry Holmes effectively finished him.

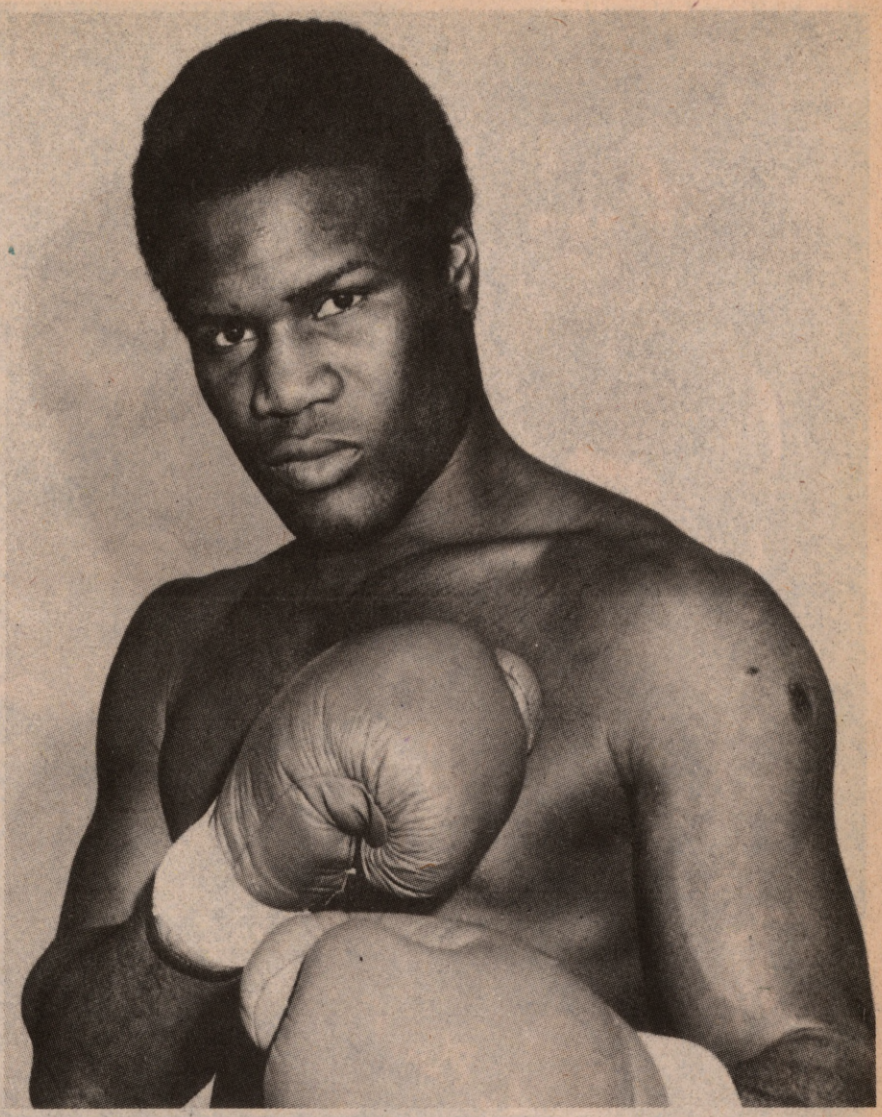
I knew the same thing would happen with Breland by the time he'd completed his first year as a pro. And his management didn't disappoint me.

My suspicion is that Breland had an opportunity to fight for the welterweight title against Lloyd Honeyghan, but that someone, somewhere, had the feeling that Breland would get beaten like a gong if he got in the ring with old Lloyd. And maybe, just maybe, that was why someone insisted that Honeyghan defend against Harold Volbrecht, a South African with a ludicrously unimpressive record. Someone must have realized that this would force Honeyghan into an impossible position, since his personal political views and sense of general fairness would force him to resign his title and let Breland take it over by beating Volbrecht.

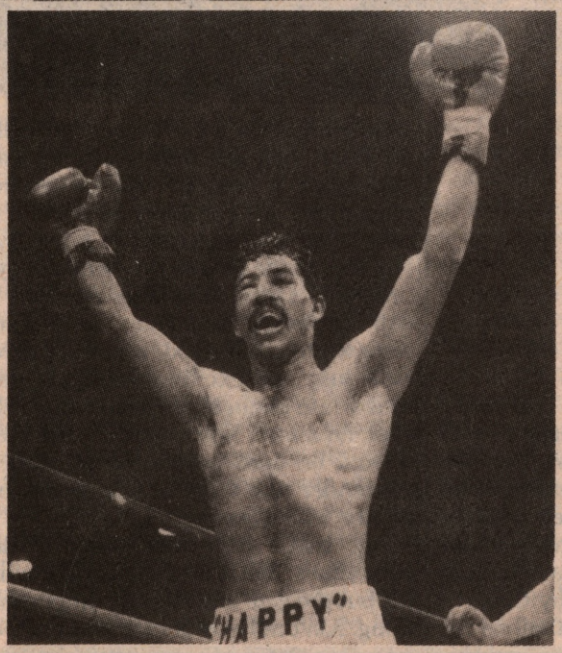
Now, Breland is a man of at least normal intelligence. He must have suspected something along these lines, and it must have devastated him psychologically. It might have been better, in the long run, if he'd done his best against Honeyghan, lost, learned something from the beating, and won his championship a couple of years later. As it is, his recent kayo loss to Marlon Starling probably made him think, "Gee, they were right. I'm really not a fighter, just a media creation. I'll never beat a real contender." And so he blew the rematch with Starling (the officials called it a draw, but that wasn't the consensus), and now it looks like his career is over.

Dammit, Mark, the whole scene is blown and it wasn't even your fault. Poor dumb sap.

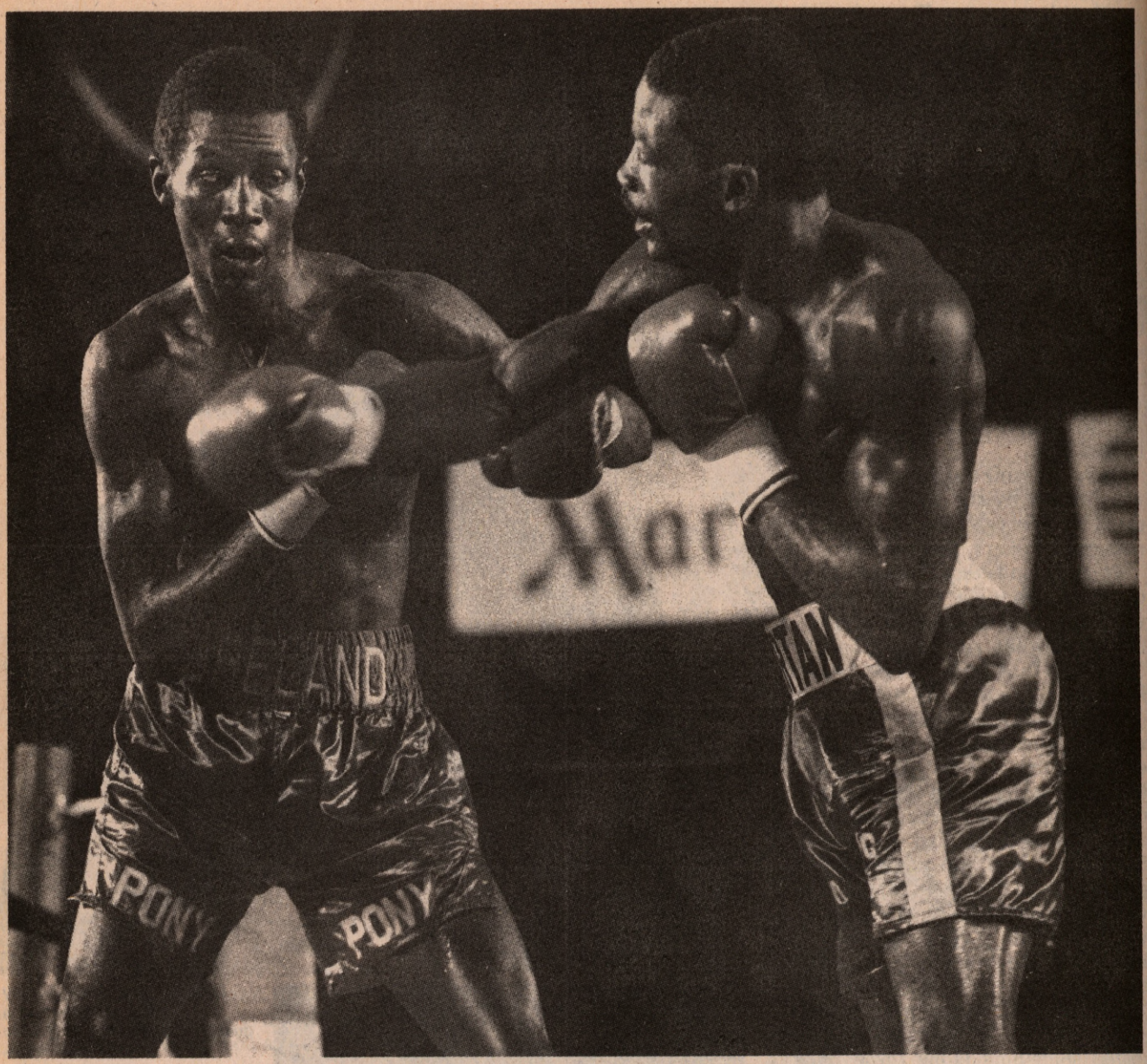
The **Razor Blades Up The Bum**



Dennis Andries beat Bobby Czyz, but instead of a guaranteed title shot, he got the royal shaft.



WBC bantamweight king Miguel Lora would be a lot "happier" if major TV networks would give him a play . . . and so would a lot of boxing fans tired of the same old faces on the tube.



Mark Breland (left) looks apprehensive during his first bout with Marlon Starling. The devastating loss seems to have thrown Breland's career into a tailspin.

Award (Billy Graham, honorary donor): To **Dennis Andries**, who fondly believed that his worthy win over Bobby Czyz would guarantee him a shot at one of the light heavy titles, only to discover that the winner of that bout was supposed to get a title shot only if the winner was Bobby Czyz.

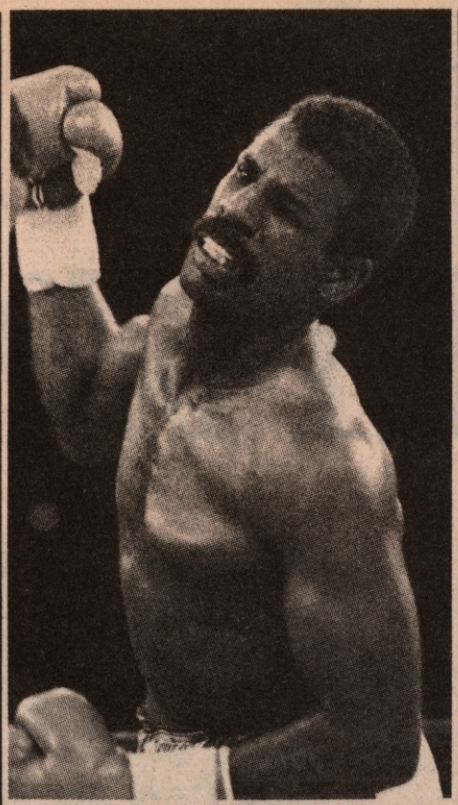
Graham, of course, was famous for getting reamed by the ringside officials on more than one occasion; this was apparently a case of Andries getting reamed by a promoter. Same difference. Czyz was supposed to win; Czyz is a handsome golden boy who always brings a crowd with him. Andries is dull, awkward and may have fans somewhere, but God knows where. He's just not exciting enough (read "not white enough") to be given a title shot, no matter how richly he deserves it. And he does deserve it. Beating a contender like Czyz is nice going, no matter who does it.

But that's how this game works sometimes. Merit might count for a little, but the gate is always the important thing. Ain't nobody gonna give old Dennis a major payday just because he has one coming. That would be too simple, and too honest. Poor dumb sap.

The **You Coulda Done Us Proud Award** (Jack Johnson, honorary donor): To **Mike Tyson**, who continues to disgrace himself in small ways in the true tradition of an emotional 10-year-old who hasn't learned to handle success. The latest escapade was one in which he suddenly got fed up with his $180,000 Rolls Royce, which he said had brought him nothing but misfortune, and tried to make a present of it to two of New York's Finest.

Now, there was nothing apparently immoral about this, but it is, I think, indicative of worse to come. It lacked

Has heavyweight champion Michael Spinks been too quiet for his own good?



class, that gesture; it's the kind of thing that is simply not done by responsible people, and it makes you wonder, is the guy going to torch his house the next time he gets into a snit, or punch out a journalist who criticizes him once too often?

It's too bad because Tyson is so obviously a good guy deep down. I'm sure he wants desperately to be a credit to himself and to the game. But he's turning himself into a buffoon, and perhaps a dangerous one at that. Poor dumb sap.

The **Why, For God's Sake? Award** (Muhammad Ali, honorary donor): To **Leon Spinks**, who continues to take beatings from whomever feels like giving him one on any given evening. Okay, so maybe he spent all the money he made back when he was champ. You'd think he'd be able to make a living endorsing Poli-Grip or playing vampires in low-budget movies instead of getting his last remaining brain cells beaten out of him in some old theater in Tuscaloosa or wherever. I suspect that somewhere, in the dark recesses of poor Leon's mind, there's the idea that if he could just get it back together for two or three fights, he'd be able to recapture his former glories and prove to everyone that he wasn't just a fluke after all.

Dammit, Leon, face facts: You *were* a fluke. But you were a colorful, fun fluke, and everybody liked you. Even I liked you, and I resented the hell out of you for beating Ali. And we still like you, if only in the way anybody will be fond of the foolish cousin who keeps messing himself up. And we definitely do not want to see you get killed. Poor dumb sap.

(The runner-up for this award, by the way, is Randall "Tex" Cobb. He didn't win the award because he recently defeated Spinks in a battle of the retreads, indicating that there is still one heavyweight out there whom he can beat. But I'll offer him a consolation prize simply because he's one fellow with whom I'd very much like to trade dirty jokes.)

The **Enough, Already Award** (Sonny Liston, honorary donor): To **Hector Camacho**, who can't seem to decide whether he wants to be a fighter or a two-bit lowlife. Offhand, I'd say we have enough two-bit lowlifes already, and that he should get it together, get back into the gym, and get back to being the terrific fighter everyone knows he could still be. Oh, I don't know; I can't quit smoking, so how can I criticize Camacho for not being able to quit being tacky? Still, it hurts me to see it. Poor dumb sap.

The **Self-Promotional Genius Award** (Marvin Hart, honorary donor): To **Michael Spinks**, who by the simple expedient of keeping his mouth shut has managed to convince everyone except a few historical purists who read The Ring Record Books that he never had any legitimate claim to the heavyweight title. I realize that Michael's a shy fellow and doesn't like to go around tooting his horn, but, Holy Geez, if only he'd gone around for just a few days proclaiming that he was the greatest thing since pornography and that he was going to hang Tyson up by his ankles and use him as a speed bag, he probably would have been able to sign for that fight at about $10 million more than the price he finally got. Heck, he could have hired me as his media man; I would have been only moderately expensive and I would have thought up some foolproof gimmicks for him. Poor dumb sap.

The **Yeah, Terrific, Now Show Me Another Heavyweight Award** (Eder Jofre, honorary donor): To **Sot Chitalada, Miguel Lora, Kaosai Galaxy, Daniel Zaragoza, Jeff Fenech** and anybody else who weighs less than 126 lbs. I keep hearing about all these great fights in the lower weight classes, and I never get to see a single damn one of them. And that bugs me, because smurfs are often a helluva lot more exciting than heavyweights.

For some reason, the major TV networks have never been informed that most of us would be overjoyed to see flyweights getting it on on a Sunday afternoon. They have this silly idea that they have to go with local talent because nobody will care to watch a Thai or Japanese fighter whose name he can't pronounce. Wrongo! If any TV producers are reading this, just be aware that the little guys may be hard to see on the TV screen, but they almost never give you less than a great fight. Can you say that about your usual stable of full-sized American fighters?

Ah, but I'm dreaming, I daresay: I'll be forced forever to content myself with seeing the little guys every six months or so, by sheer accident, on some obscure cable channel.

And those poor, deserving liliputians will continue fighting for chump change in places where wealthy American promoters never go. Poor dumb saps.

The **Let's Kill This Sport By Inches Award** (The WBC, honorary donor): To the **WBA**, who has now also decided to turn boxing into a sprint by eliminating 15-round bouts, and to the BFs who run British boxing these days, who in their infinite wisdom have forbidden 15-round bouts on British soil. Well, gentlemen, I feel sorry for you because God will get you one day. Poor dumb saps.

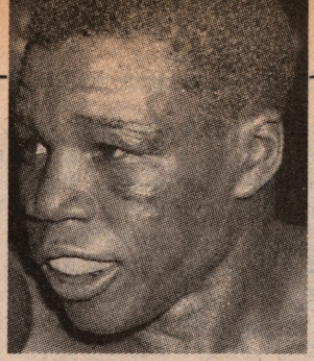
Well, we can only hope that the sport will still be alive the next time I feel like handing out a batch of PDSs. Of course, some folks might be unkind enough to say that boxing would have a much better chance of survival if I were to take my awards and stick 'em where the sun don't shine. Hey, I'll gladly do that, as soon as I find that there's nobody who deserves 'em. □

E·X·C·L·U·S·I·V·E
TO THE RING

GILLETTE TV YE

by Don Dunphy

A familiar sight to TV viewers during the early 1960s was Emile Griffith, arms raised in victory.



The ill-fated Benny "Kid" Paret.

ARS 1960-1964

The Ring is pleased to present an exclusive excerpt from Don Dunphy's new book DON DUNPHY AT RINGSIDE, published by Henry Holt & Company, Inc. of New York City.

THE RADIO BROADCASTS I DID FOR THE Garden began with the Louis-Conn fight in June 1941 and ended June 3rd, 1960 in the old St. Nick Arena with Emile Griffith, then in the early part of his career, taking a 10-round decision from Jorge Fernandez, whom he later fought for the welterweight title. What I remember most about that night was that it was hot, terribly hot and humid. It had been that way for days and every window and door in the place was open, hoping to induce a little air inside. At about 9:30, there was a sudden cloudburst. It didn't help. You could actually see steam drifting into the fight club as the rain pounded the overheated sidewalks outside. The fighters, Win Elliott and I all struggled through the evening, and thus ended 19 years of Gillette fight broadcasts on radio. The TV age had begun.

TV coverage of the fights had begun in 1944 with Bob Stanton announcing, then Steve Ellis, then Jimmy Powers, with Powers at the helm when I took over in the fall of 1960.

As I've noted, TV and radio announcing require different styles, so it was fortunate for me that there was a lapse of almost four months between the end of radio and the beginning of TV. If I had done radio one week and started TV the next I'm sure it would have been hard. But with a long passage of time I was able to formulate my ideas and plan how I would approach TV announcing. I realized that the old blow by blow descriptions and constant filling the air with words would be out. There had to be a new style, and I developed one, using that interval period to attend fights at local clubs, sitting at ringside and announcing the fights to myself, imagining I was on TV. This helped me immeasurably. When I finally did TV, which was live at that time, I was mentally ready.

Starting in the fall of 1960 I announced the Garden fights for Gillette for five years. Some great fighters paraded before our cameras and talked into our microphones, including Sugar Ray Robinson, Gene Fullmer, Carmen Basilio, Carlos Ortiz, Luis Rodriguez and, of course, Griffith. Robinson, while still good by ordinary standards, was no longer the great Sugar Ray — his brilliance was eroding. Unfortunately, like many great champions, he had overstayed his leave. He had been fighting for over 20 years, and some who couldn't have laid a glove on him in the old days were now catching up. He lost the middleweight title to Paul Pender of Boston and lost again in a return bout. He fought a draw with Fullmer in Los Angeles in a bout for the NBA middleweight title and on March 4th, 1961 lost a close 15-round title bout to Fullmer. Although he continued to fight until November of 1965,

the Fullmer go was his last title bout. When he finally did retire, he had been fighting for 25 years. Robinson, Joe Louis, Muhammad Ali. What a shame these great ones stayed around too long! But who knows. In similar circumstances, we might have done the same thing. I remember when I was a kid there was a brilliant featherweight champion, Johnny Dundee. The fabulous Jimmy Walker was Mayor of New York at the time — it was he who as a state Senator introduced the Walker Boxing Law, which legalized boxing in New York State. So you knew he was interested in the game. Dundee stayed in the ring for 22 years. One day near the end of his career, Mayor Walker said to him, "Johnny, why don't you retire?"

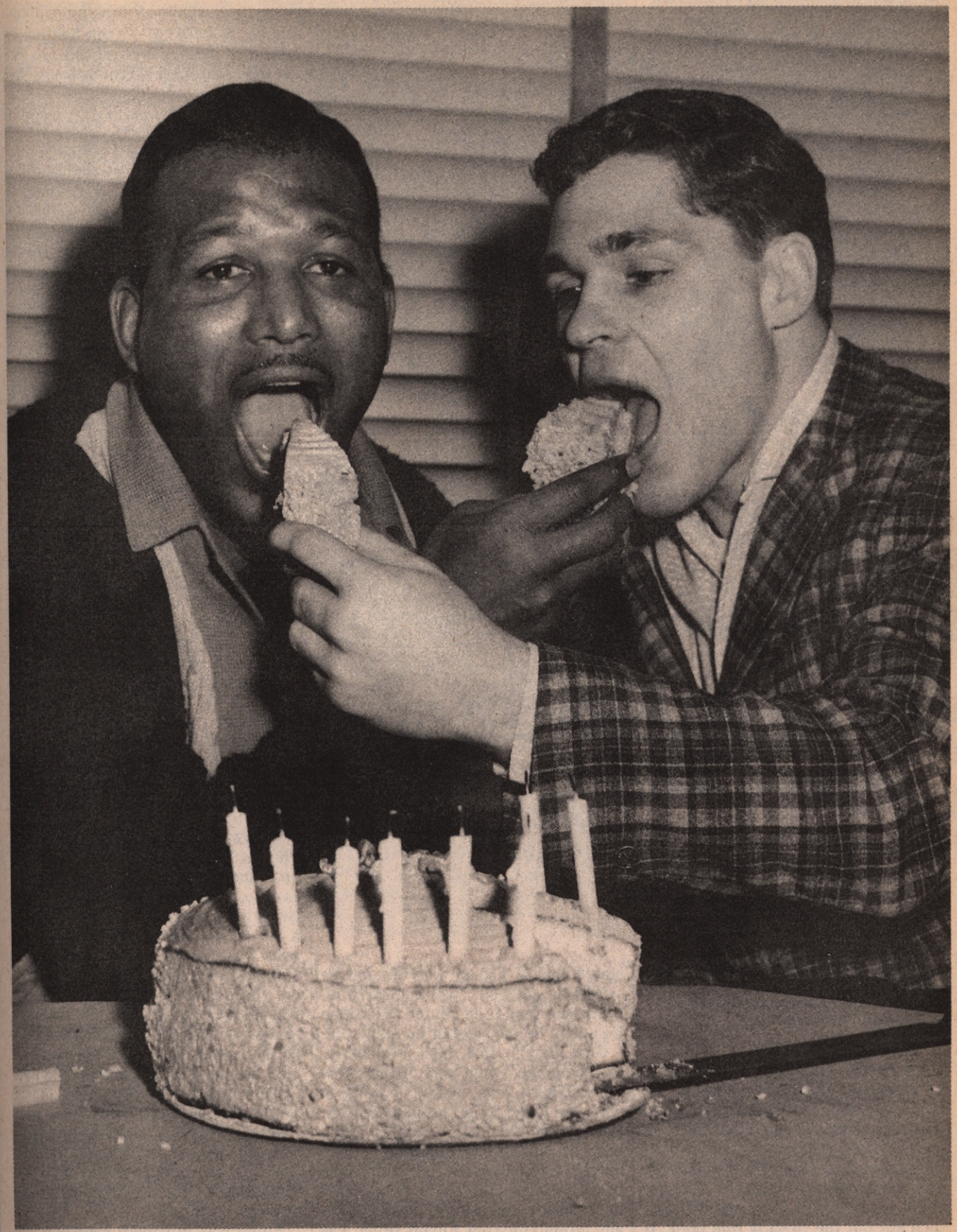
Johnny looked the Mayor in the eye and startled one and all by saying "Why don't *you* retire?"

We had some interesting title bouts in the years 1960-64. Outstanding I think was the Griffith-Rodriguez series. They fought four times and Emile copped the decision on three of the occasions. But, as I recall, all of the decisions were hotly contested, they were that evenly matched. Both were good boxers, hard hitters and very strong. And both had the best of trainers; Gil Clancy with Griffith and Angelo Dundee with Rodriguez. I've discussed Rodriguez with Wilbert Skeeter McClure, a fine middleweight from Toledo, Ohio who'd fought Rodriguez, a welterweight, twice, dropping a 10-round decision each time. Skeeter shook his head. "That Rodriguez, he's too strong for the welterweights, and he's too fast for the middleweights." I guess you could say the same about Griffith.

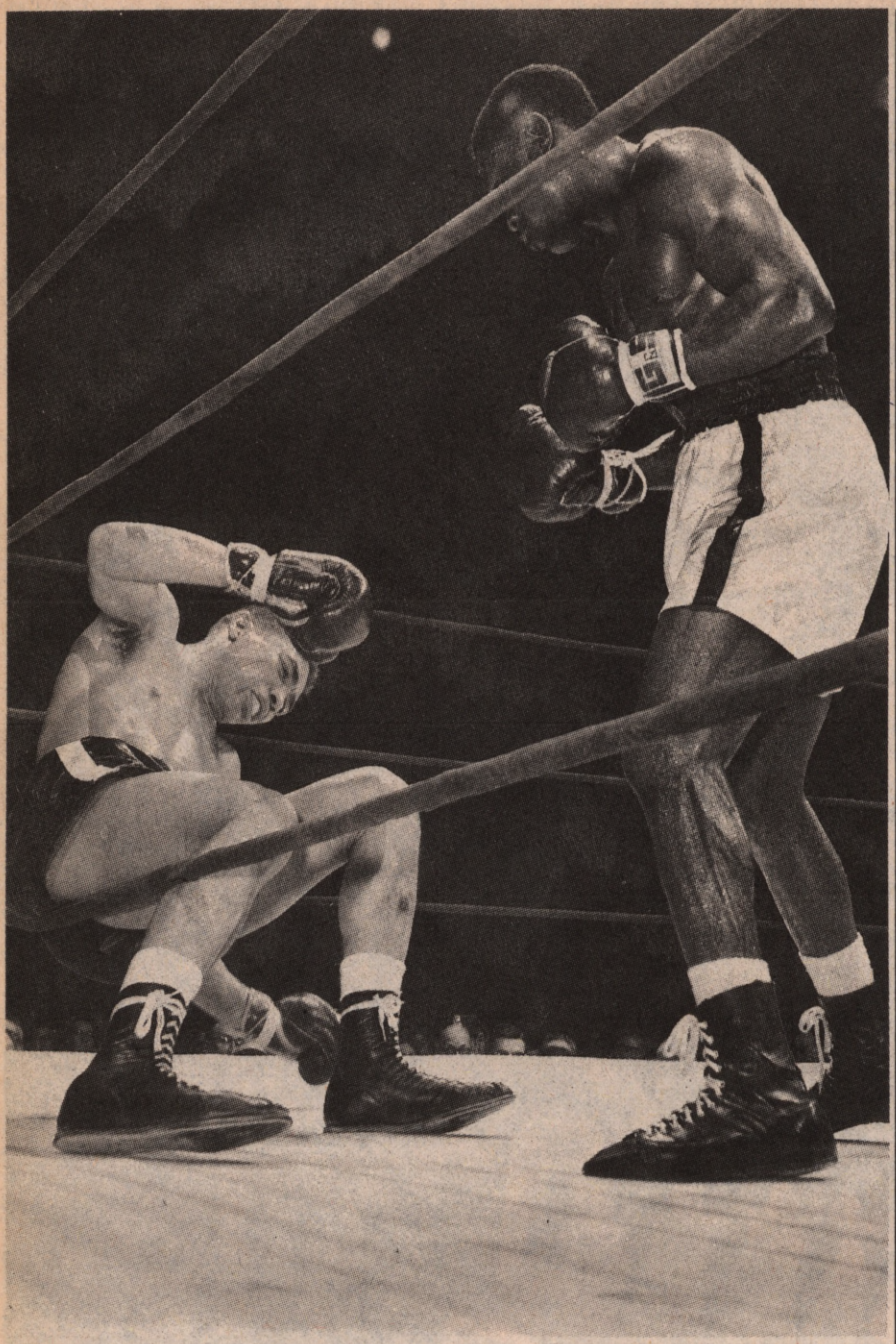
Rodriguez won the welterweight title on a decision over Griffith, but Emile regained it in a return bout. They fought again for the crown with Griffith again the winner. Even though they went at each other tooth and nail, out of the ring they were the best of friends. I interviewed Griffith after their last bout, and he was gracious enough to say, "It's too bad that Luis and I came along at the same time. He could have been a great champion."

I've always felt that you can't give too much preparation when getting ready for an important broadcast. It paid off for me in an important Griffith bout in Las Vegas in December of 1962. Griffith was defending the welterweight crown against tough, hard hitting Jorge Fernandez. Whenever I broadcast a fight out of town, I made it a point to go to the weigh-in the day of the fight. That's where you find out things. The session was almost over when I asked the commissioner what would happen if a man was fouled and seemingly unable to continue. There were different rules in different states and it was important to me to know how it might be handled if a man went

Doug Jones enjoys a trick newspaper headline prior to his 1963 bout with Muhammad Ali at Madison Square Garden. Don Dunphy's delayed broadcast of the fight is one of the more peculiar happenings detailed in this month's excerpt from his new book, "Don Dunphy at Ringside."



Sugar Ray Robinson and Denny Moyer feed each other pieces of a cake given to Robinson to celebrate his 22nd year as a boxer. Moyer, a regular performer on ABC-TV's weekly fights during the early 1960s, lost a unanimous decision to Robinson three days after this photo was taken.



Dick Tiger stands over Gene "Ace" Armstrong after flooring him for a ninth-round kayo. This was one of Tiger's many appearances on the Gillette Fight of the Week.

down from a low blow. In New York, for instance, where they have a "No Foul" rule, the man would be counted out unless it was decided that the fouling had been deliberate. In that case the perpetrator could be disqualified. The commission members thought about my question for a moment and then got out the Nevada rule book. It stated that if a man were fouled he would be allowed five minutes to recover and then if he couldn't continue he would be considered knocked out.

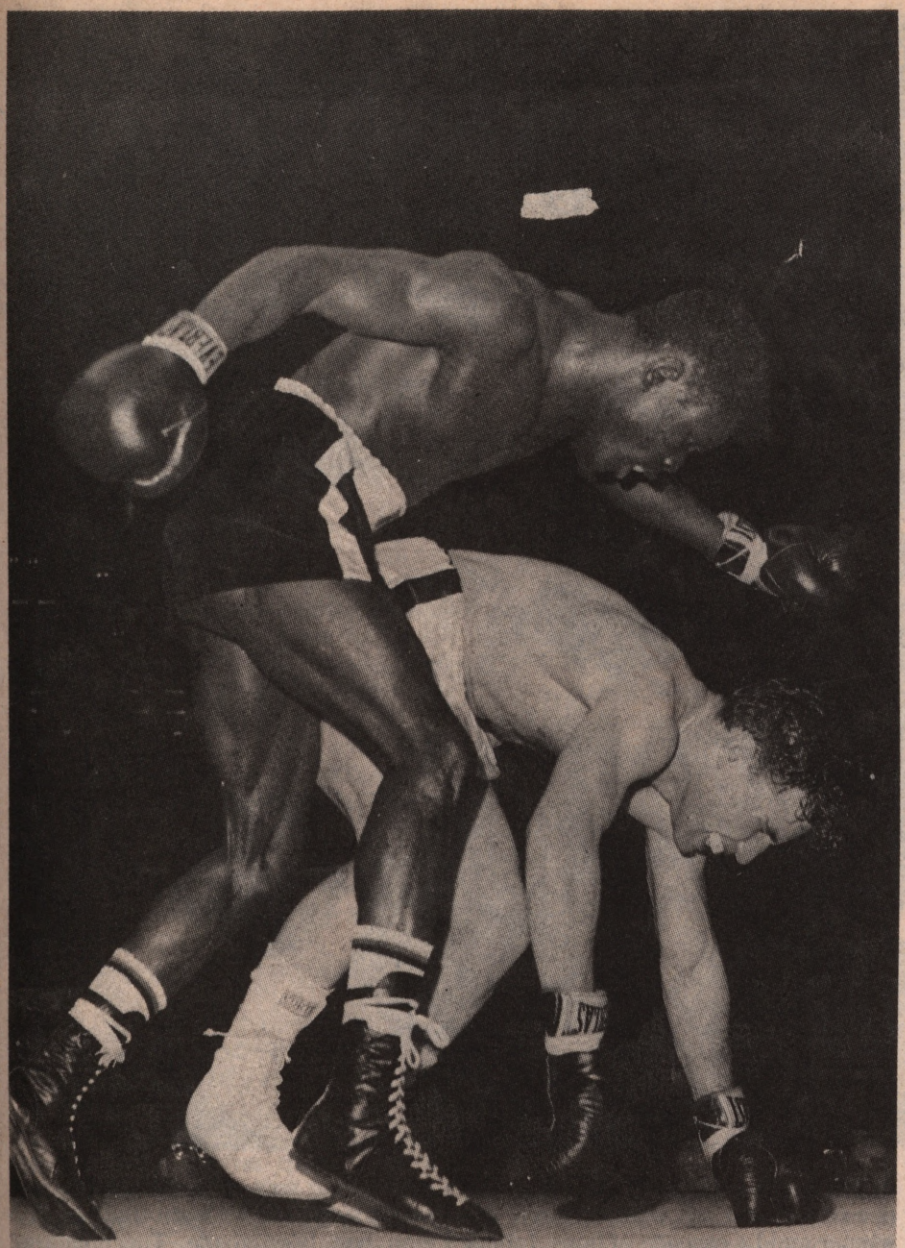
Sure enough, that night, Fernandez, the challenger, went down from a low blow. There was instant confusion when he failed to get up immediately. Even the referee didn't seem to know how to handle the situation. Fortunately, I remembered what the rule book had said and told it to my audience. There was a lot of confusion in and around the ring. Finally order was restored and every one, including Fernandez, was told of the rule. He got up before the five minutes were up but decided that he had had enough. End of fight, end of incident.

THE GRIFFITH PERSONA SEEMED TO dominate the 1960-1964 period in boxing. In April of 1961, he captured the welterweight crown by knocking out Benny "Kid" Paret in 13 rounds in Miami Beach. In June he kayoed tough Gaspar Ortega in Los Angeles and in September lost the crown back to Paret in New York. It was a controversial decision and I agreed with those who felt that Griffith should have been declared the winner and still champion.

Paret and Griffith were matched again for the title on March 12, 1962. It was an exciting week. On Monday I was asked to come to the ABC-TV studios. There I learned that a videotape replay had been developed and that I was invited to take part in a demonstration for a great many important ABC executives and members of the press. Jim McKay, the host of ABC's Wide World of Sports, also was there. A ring had been set up and two boxers were there ready to trade punches. They fought a one-round exhibition and, with the videotape cameras rolling, I described the action as I would in a real fight. When the round was over, it was replayed again and again for the studio audience and pronounced a success. The new system was ready to make its debut at the Paret-Griffith fight the following Saturday night.

It turned out to be a tragic beginning. The fight was a bruising one. The men had faced each other twice and knew each other's style. In the sixth round Griffith backed Paret into the ropes in a corner and was really working him over. Paret had a habit of playing possum and letting Griffith pour punches on him. Ruby Goldstein, the referee, was about to move in to get them out to the center of the ring when suddenly Paret opened up with a blistering attack, stunned Griffith and floored him. Griffith beat the count but was in bad shape. The bell probably saved him. Clancy, Griffith's co-manager (with Howard Albert) and trainer, told me later that he thought if the round had lasted much longer Griffith might have been knocked out.

Emile was in superb condition and



Fernandez is helped from the ring following his loss to Griffith. Lucky for Dunphy, he'd checked the Nevada rule book in advance and was able to inform TV viewers why Griffith was the winner despite an apparent foul.

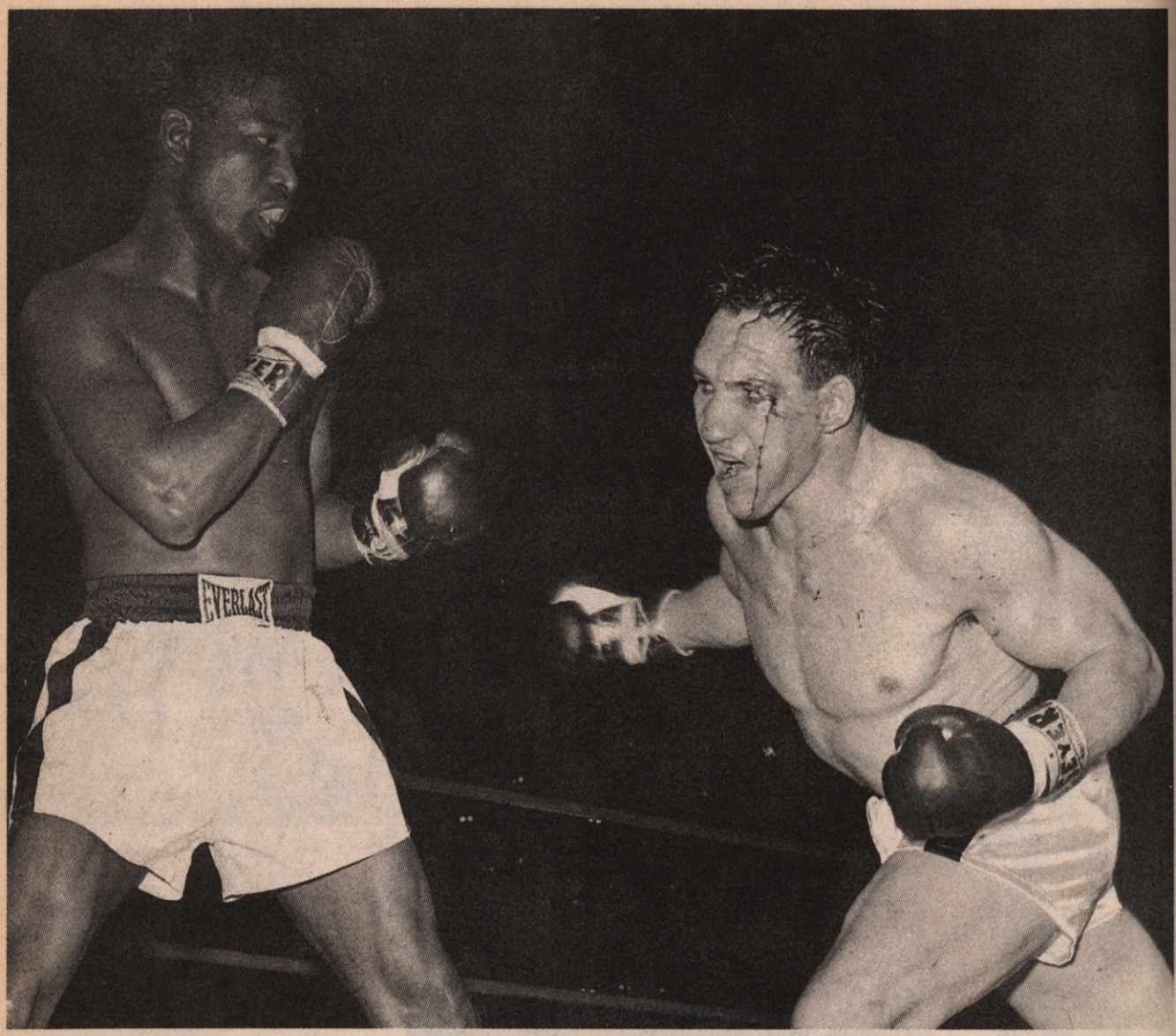
Jorge Fernandez falls to the canvas after fielding a low blow from Emile Griffith in their 1962 title bout in Las Vegas.

the minute's rest revived him. The bout continued with blistering action into the 12th round. In the sixth round, Paret had backed into Griffith's corner on my right. Now in the 12th, he backed into the neutral corner on my left. Again Griffith rained punches on him. For a split second I wondered if Paret might be playing possum again. I don't know what Goldstein's thoughts were as he bounced around the ring. Could he also have thought the champion was playing possum? He wasn't. Griffith continued to rain punches on him. Paret made no return. As Goldstein rushed in to part them, Paret sagged to the canvas. The commission doctors rushed in to try to revive him. They couldn't. A stretcher was brought in and he was taken to the hospital.

All this was now on videotape. The replays went on the air and showed the beating Paret was taking. Again and again they were repeated. I heard later that the ratings for the post-fight show were more than for the fight itself. Apparently people were calling friends and telling them to tune in, that a guy was getting beaten to death on the TV.

Paret never regained consciousness. He died in the hospital April 3rd.

Aileen Eaton was the top boxing promoter in Los Angeles for a good many years. For March 16th, 1963 she booked a welterweight championship bout between titleholder Griffith and challenger Rodriguez. Earlier that week I had been at the 10-round bout between Cassius Clay and Doug Jones at Madison Square Garden. I was a spectator at this closed-circuit affair which Chris Schenkel was announcing.



About this time, Clay caused a lot of excitement in boxing circles by predicting the round in which he would knock out his opponent. He had first done it on a bout I aired in Louisville in 1961, predicting that he would kayo tough Alex Miteff in the sixth round. I thought the former Olympic champion was going a little too far with this one. I figured he'd be fortunate to beat Miteff at all, let alone predict the kayo round. But he was right. Miteff went out in the sixth and Clay went on to greater glory.

For the Jones bout at the Garden, Clay predicted he would knock Jones out in the sixth. It was a close contest all the way with the sixth round coming and going and Jones still on his feet. As a matter of fact, Jones was still upright at the end of the 10th and final round. Many thought he deserved the decision, but Clay was declared the winner amid a cascade of boos. I think many people who said Jones deserved the decision actually felt Clay deserved to lose since he had failed to knock Jones out in the sixth as he predicted. I personally thought Clay had won it on a squeaker.

Griffith and Rodriguez were scheduled to fight the following Saturday in L.A. As usual, I went to the weigh-in around 10 A.M. It was a lovely morning, sunny and mild. But the weather turned sour. Around noon, there was a sprinkle of rain. Then it rained harder. Then it poured. About four o'clock, I grabbed a cab and headed for the ball park. On the way, I had the cabbie stop at a shoe store and I got a pair of rubbers. I figured the bout would be called off, since it was an outdoor affair, and I was surprised to learn that no decision had been made. The bout was scheduled for seven P.M., California time. All day long, behind the scenes maneuverings had been going on between the boxing people, the Gillette people and the network brass. At 6:30, while the rain poured down and flashes of lightning ripped across the sky, I was told what had been going on. Mrs. Eaton, Harry Markson for M.S.G., Chet Simmons of ABC and Joel Nixon, representing Gillette, had been pulling strings, or should I say wires, ever since late in the morning when it became obvious that an outdoor fight couldn't go on. Here's what they came up with. A monitor would be set up in the ring, and the Clay-Jones fight of the previous Wednesday, which had not been on live

Gene Fullmer, blood dripping from a gashed eyelid, tears into Sugar Ray Robinson during their 1961 title bout. Fullmer retained the crown via a close 15-round decision.

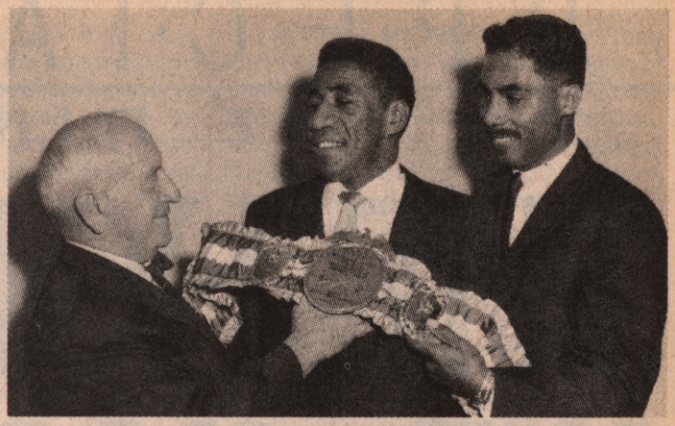
TV, would be shown on the monitor and would go out over ABC. This was a great idea since there had been so much controversy about the decision. I would sit in the open ring and describe on the air the action of the Clay-Jones fight as I watched on the monitor. The fight would come from New York City, and the commercials would come from Chicago. They explained all this to me as another flash of lightning skittered across the California sky. Now the rain wasn't coming straight down. It was slanting into the ring. They got me a raincoat, and Angelo Dundee, Rodriguez' trainer, loaned me a rain cap.

I shook my head. It may have been an electronic marvel, but I wasn't about to sit in an open ring with a live microphone in my hand, an inviting target for the lightning. Markson got me a pair of rubber gloves. So the telecast started with me in the ring, a lonely figure except for associate producer Bill Lilling, who was giving go and stop cues. The show went on, and we all got wet, except Clay and Jones. Naturally, as we signed off the rain stopped and 10 minutes later the moon was out. The next day, my wife received a telegram from my son, Don, who was a junior at Notre Dame.

It read "Has Dad gone nuts?"

I WOULDN'T WANT TO GIVE THE IMpression that Griffith and Rodriguez were the only great fighters performing on Gillette TV during my days on the microphone. The then Cassius Clay appeared for us several times and, of course, won all of his bouts. Fullmer, a fine middleweight titleholder, was in there and so was his friend and sometime opponent, Basilio. Denny Moyer also was prominent on our fight cards as were Harold Johnson and Willie Pastrano, light heavyweight champs. In the lighter weights we had champions Joe Brown, Carlos Ortiz and Kenny Lane.

Boxing is a cyclical sport. Its popularity zooms, then wanes. It has its good periods and its bad ones. Sometimes it seems to be groggy and on the ropes and you wonder if it can survive. But it always rebounds, sometimes with an incredible burst of energy. It is a basic sport and has an amazing hold on its fans. But every so often it goes into a deep slump. The years 1962 and 1963 were such a period. Although some say boxing, like the poor, will always be with us, there are those who would like to see it banned. In '62 and '63 they came out en masse and boxing went down for the count.



THE RING'S Nat Fleischer (left) presents Luis Rodriguez with his welterweight championship belt with an assist from Wilbert "Skeeter" McClure. Rodriguez twice outpointed McClure during Dunphy's days with ABC-TV.

The popularity of boxing is often linked to the popularity of the heavyweight champion. Floyd Patterson was the champion from 1956 to 1962, until Sonny Liston took over. Patterson became one of the most popular of ex-champions. Whenever ex-fighters were introduced from the ring Floyd always got the biggest ovation. He has retained that popularity to this day. He was my color commentator on many of the shows I did for HBO and we became good friends. But he was not nearly so popular when he was actually champion. He was managed by Cus D'Amato, who overdid it in shielding him from worthy opponents. This was not Floyd's fault. He would have fought anyone. But the boxing public didn't understand this and Patterson's approval rating dropped. Finally, he fought Liston and was kayoed in one round.

If Patterson was an unpopular champion, Liston was more so. He came to the title with a fine boxing record but with a terribly tarnished personal reputation. Despite his awesome boxing ability he took the game down. In fairness, it may not have been his fault. There were other factors. Liston was the best heavyweight around at the time and he fought the best available opponents and beat them convincingly. But he never really caught the public's fancy, and became a prime target for the boxing banners.

I've already mentioned the 1962 death of Paret following a welterweight championship bout with Griffith. This brought on an investigation of boxing and brought out more reformers. It was a tough time for the old game. In March, 1963 came another boxing death. Davey Moore, the featherweight champion, died following a defense of the title against Sugar Ramos and the attacks on the sport grew in intensity. Finally, in December of 1963 the American Broadcasting Company announced that it was not renewing the fight contract. The series would be terminated in September of 1964. This was a blow to me, like when *The Morning World* folded when I was just getting started. But boxing later returned to the same network and became one of its most popular programs.

But the end of the Gillette fights in 1964 was, in a sense, the end of an era. For many years the slogan "Look sharp, feel sharp, be sharp," followed by "HOW'RE YA FIXED FOR BLADES?" had been familiar to millions, and left an indelible mark on TV history. The sad end came in Cleveland, September 11, 1964 when Dick Tiger defeated Don Fullmer (Gene's brother) in a 10 round bout. To me, the bout, which was not a rouser, seemed secondary as I spent the evening saying goodbyes and thanking the myriad of sports writers, radio and TV people, promoters, boxing officials and others who had contributed to making that program so vital and so important. Wistfully I thought of the first bout, Louis-Conn, and then thought of the last one, Tiger-Don Fullmer. I wondered what the future would bring. I didn't know it at the time but it proved to be even more interesting and exciting than those 23 years had been. Just before saying goodbye, I thanked the viewers and listeners. I told them how much I appreciated their support and their letters, even the critical ones. I thanked them again, telling them it was they who had made it all possible. I only wish Joe Humphries could have been there to sing "Auld Lang Syne." □

S·P·E·C·I·A·L

TO THE RING

THE HORROR OF KID CHOCOLATE

British Journalist Discovers The Havana Bon Bon Alive in Cuba

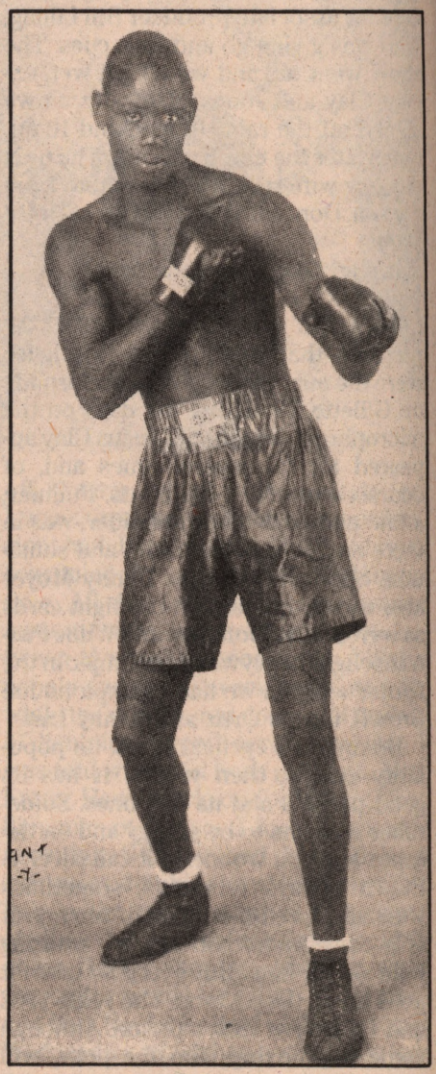
by Jonathan Rendall

OVER HALF A CENTURY HAS PASSED since Kid Chocolate dropped out of the Caribbean skies, a mere shadow lost in the shuffle of the ordinary pugilist, to gain recognition as both the world's featherweight and junior lightweight champion. Liquorice thin, but in talent as saturated as the rum-soaked backstreets of the Cuban capital, the Kandy Kid became a bigger draw than the Havana cigar itself. How many times Harlem emptied, the subways crackling with anticipation, as the Chocolate Bon Bon went to the post at the Polo Grounds or the Garden against Al Singer, Fidel LaBarba, Seaman Watson and others. But you couldn't buy a drink for tears, in Harlem or Havana, when an Englishman, Jack Kid Berg, beat the unbeatable "Keed" for the first time in 53 fights.

Kid Chocolate had 70 suits before Ray Robinson bought his first tin of hair lacquer; six automobiles too, including two Chevies. When he drove them through the streets of Havana Vieja where he was raised, it was an event. The Kid would stop the car, throw flowers to girls and sign autographs. Then he would drive back across town, over the river bridge, to the rich Mirimar suburb, where plantation owners wintered after the harvest, and where Chocolate built his own mansion in 1929. In the evenings he might go dancing, perhaps to the Tropicana, or dine out at the Floridita or the Bodeguita del Media, where Carlos Puebla made his name. But everywhere he went, he would be feted like a king. He was, as Damon Runyon once wrote, "exquisitely handsome" and sure of his own abilities, often being a week before a bout in cocktail bars, drinking Havana Club and sucking on an American cigarette.

Chocolate won the world junior lightweight title on July 15, 1931 by stopping Benny Bass in Philadelphia. In October 1932, in Chicago, he added the New York Athletic Commission version of the featherweight championship by stopping Lew Feldman. Already in 1929 and 1930 he had earned huge sums, when his unbeaten record guaranteed a big take at the gate. Despite losses to Berg and, in December 1930, to Battling Battalino in a previous bid for the featherweight title, he remained pound-for-pound among the best fighters in the world, with none but the most adventurous managers willing to risk their boys against the fabulous Cuban. Indeed, matches were becoming hard to make. When Chocolate fought the great Tony Canzoneri in November 1931, he lost narrowly on points, but was well renumerated for his troubles and ended the following year with two championship belts around his slim waist.

But the storm clouds of depression were gathering over the Atlantic. And in this atmosphere, as is the case in times of depression, poor boys were drawn inexorably by the lure of the prize ring;



The Havana Bon Bon in his fistic prime.

a shrine where, aided by the attentions of an adoring press, the legend of Kid Chocolate prospered more than ever.

But for the Kid himself, the reality was different. In December 1933, he lost his junior lightweight title to a mediocre clubfighter, Frankie Klick, who knocked him out in seven rounds in Philadelphia. There were rumors that Chocolate had squandered $500,000 in two years on high living. But if he had been reckless with his money, he had also been overgenerous with his charms. Two months after losing to Klick, he relinquished his claim to the featherweight title: he was 23 years old, an ex-champion and riddled with syphilis.

Chocolate was never to regain the title. He fought 49 more bouts, losing only three. He remained a great attraction in his homeland: in 1938, a record attendance paid $15,000 at the Polar Stadium in Havana to see him outpoint Fillio Echevarria of Spain. Then, to the horror of his female admirers, the Kandy Kid got married and added to his property interests in Cuba. He opened a gym and through the 40s and 50s played host to some of the best boxers of the era: Kid Gavilan, Benny Paret and a young Luis Rodriguez; and among those from the United States, the superlative Sugar Ray Robinson, whose breathtaking skills and extravagant good looks bore an uncanny resemblence to the Kid of old.

At first the revolution of 1959 changed little. The public mood was buoyant; abroad, the New York Times led a chorus of approval for Castro's government. Joe Louis was guest of honor in the Plaza de la Revolucion over Christmas 1960. But then, one by one, the top Cuban boxers followed Robinson back to America: Gavilan, Rodriguez and Jose Napoles to become world champions; and Paret too, before a brutal defeat by Emile Griffith cut short his young life in 1962.

But Chocolate stayed. Perhaps, like the singer Celia Cruz, who took a holiday in Miami only to be informed that she was on a "one-way ticket," he was unaware of the great change taking place. By the mid-60s his property had been taken into state ownership. "Libreta" in hand, he joined his fellow countrymen in line as the revolutionary government introduced food rationing, an "emergency measure" still in place today.

As Cuba, soon to be led by the "gigante" of Las Tunas, Teofilo Stevenson, marched towards dominance in the amateur ring, so memories of Kid Chocolate's heroic feats retreated into the dark and unwanted past. The public career of the Havana Dandy had come to an end. He was no longer Kid Chocolate, but Eligio Sardinias, though under his stage name he continued to exert a powerful, almost mysterious influence over the annals of boxing. His obscurity encouraged rumors: that he was dead; or a hopeless drug addict whose habit was being supported by the government.

Then two years ago he surfaced, briefly, in Havana to receive a belated award for services to sport before disappearing again. There was a photograph: it showed a frail old man, apparently well-dressed, with a medal around his neck. He was grinning mischievously and was surrounded by crowds. It was the first time in 20 years the Cuban people had seen Kid Chocolate.

Chocolate hams it up with Santa Claus and Frankie Klick prior to their 1933 bout in Philadelphia which cost Chocolate his junior lightweight belt when Klick scored a seventh-round TKO.

FORTY-EIGHTH STREET RUNS FROM the center of Havana, through Mirimar and out into the suburbs. It is a wide avenue, for the most part bordered by large, ornate villas. Where 48th meets Istis stands a small square, on one corner of which lies an imposing house looking out onto once-manicured lawns which have shriveled and gone to seed. Many of the houses on the square are empty and delapidated, though their grand porches are evidence of a salubrious past. Now the silent streets smell faintly of fish.

It was the fifth time I had been directed to Kid Chocolate's house. The first four had given ample opportunity to view the city, but little indication as to his whereabouts. But an old man, stopped at random on Calle 22, had said he had been to Chocolate's gym many years before, "when the Kid was a millionaire. It was the big house on the corner of the square, though I doubt he's still there. The last I heard he was

ONE KID RECALLS ANOTHER

Jack "Kid" Berg as he appeared around the time of his famous bouts with Kid Chocolate.

JACK "KID" BERG HAS NEVER VISITED Kid Chocolate in Cuba; indeed, the last time he saw him was after their second bout in July 1932, which Berg won on points. However, he remembers both their contests well, particularly the first, which took place at the Polo Grounds, New York, on August 8, 1930 amid enormous press interest.

"That was the hardest I ever trained for a fight," Berg said. "Everbody said Kid Chocolate was unbeatable, but the only thing that worried me was making the weight, as I had been boxing at junior welter and the match was made at lightweight."

As the fight approached the boxers crossed words on more than one occasion. Ed Sullivan of the *Evening Graphic* wrote of Chocolate: "Clad in a cool silk gym shirt, powder-blue flannel trousers and a rakish Parisian beret . . . he declared: 'I say today and I will say 10 years from now that Kid Berg is the dirtiest fighter I have ever seen.' "

Berg replied through James Burchard of the *New York Telegraph:* "So Kid Chocolate and his pals think I'm a dirty fighter, eh? Well, let me tell you something. I am going to fight Kid Chocolate as I fought all the rest of them . . . and let Chocolate try to hold me on Thursday night. If he does, I'll tear his midriff apart."

While the bookmaker gave the edge to Berg because of his experience at the championship level, the New York sportswriters were backing the Cuban almost to a man. "Isn't Chocolate the prettiest thing to watch in action that you ever saw?" wrote Ed Van Every in the *Evening World.* "It ought to be a treat when Chocolate cuts loose against Berg's whirly-gig style."

Indeed, such predictions seemed about to be borne out as Chocolate, cheered on by his supporters in the 40,000-strong crowd, set about the Englishman in the early rounds. Berg remembers one punch in particular: "He was fast, you see, and when I came rushing in in the second round he moved to his right at the last moment and caught me with a chopping right hand. It turned my head around."

But Berg withstood the onslaught and, as the Cuban began to tire and clinch, he did what he promised he would, belaboring Chocolate's elongated frame with jolting body punches. Berg ground down the Cuban's points lead until, going into the 10th and final round, the bout was evenly poised. The *Times* took up the story: "In the last round Berg leapt forward as though he were intent on finishing the fight and swung over a hard right to the jaw. Then he started again on the Cuban's body. Chocolate threw discretion to the winds and staked everything on a desperate effort to avoid defeat. He landed jabs, hooks and uppercuts with lightning rapidity, but Berg still came on, and nothing seemed to be capable of stopping him."

Berg recalls: "It was a very close fight, though I knew I'd won. I remember he cried when the decision was announced because no one had ever beaten him. Still, I was paid $66,000 and I know he got more."

Berg, who is now 79 and lives in Chiswick, has an interesting theory about Kid Chocolate's mystery visitor in Havana: "Some years ago, I can't remember when, some guy in America was going around pretending to be me. Pretending to be Kid Berg. Maybe that's who went to see Chocolate. Barney Ross, the lightweight champion, told me about this imposter. He saw him in New York and went up to him and said: 'If you're Kid Berg you'll know how to stop this.' And he knocked him out!" — Jonathan Rendall □

taken ill and in the hospital."

The house, its shutters drawn, appeared unoccupied, but next door a young woman was preparing for lunch for her children outside. "No one has lived there for years," she said. "I'm afraid you've wasted your journey." But upon production of Kid Berg's biography, with its many photographs of Kid Chocolate, she paused, ordered me to wait, and disappeared into the adjacent mansion. When she returned, she said, "I'm sorry but we have to be careful. His last visitors came over two years ago from the government. They were researching a book and took away his press cuttings. They haven't returned them and he is understandably bitter. But he will see you if you bring him a bottle of rum."

This having been obtained, I found myself, some 10 minutes later, standing before the huge wooden door of the house. The lock showed signs of having been forced and the lower part of the door was clearly rotten. But there were sounds of activity within, and presently it inched open to reveal an old man, barefoot, so slight in build that at first his form was almost imperceptible in the shadows of the hallway. Behind him on the wall stood two large photographs, both nudes, of a beautifully-proportioned athlete. They were dated 1931 and signed, "Kid Chocolate."

Rum was poured and cigarettes issued. The sitting room was sparsely furnished, though dotted with boxing momentoes, and the air inside, if not humid, was acrid and sour and smelled of open drains.

Kid Chocolate opened his mouth to speak but rum trickled out instead, oozing through his cracked lips, stained with tobacco, like lava suddenly spewed from a long-extinct volcano. His voice, when it emerged, was a hoarse whisper and formed words with difficulty, each syllable accompanied by a widening of the eyes and a smile, as if greeting every tortured sound as an old forgotten friend.

"I had a book," he said. "It had reports of all my fights from all over the world. I gave it to the journalists and I never saw it again. But I'm happy. I once fought for five pesos on the street and I became a rich man. For seven years I lived in New York. I had a fine apartment. I knew everyone. All the nightclubs. Fats Waller was a friend of mine. At the Cotton Club he had a band, the Hot Chocolates; and Duke El-

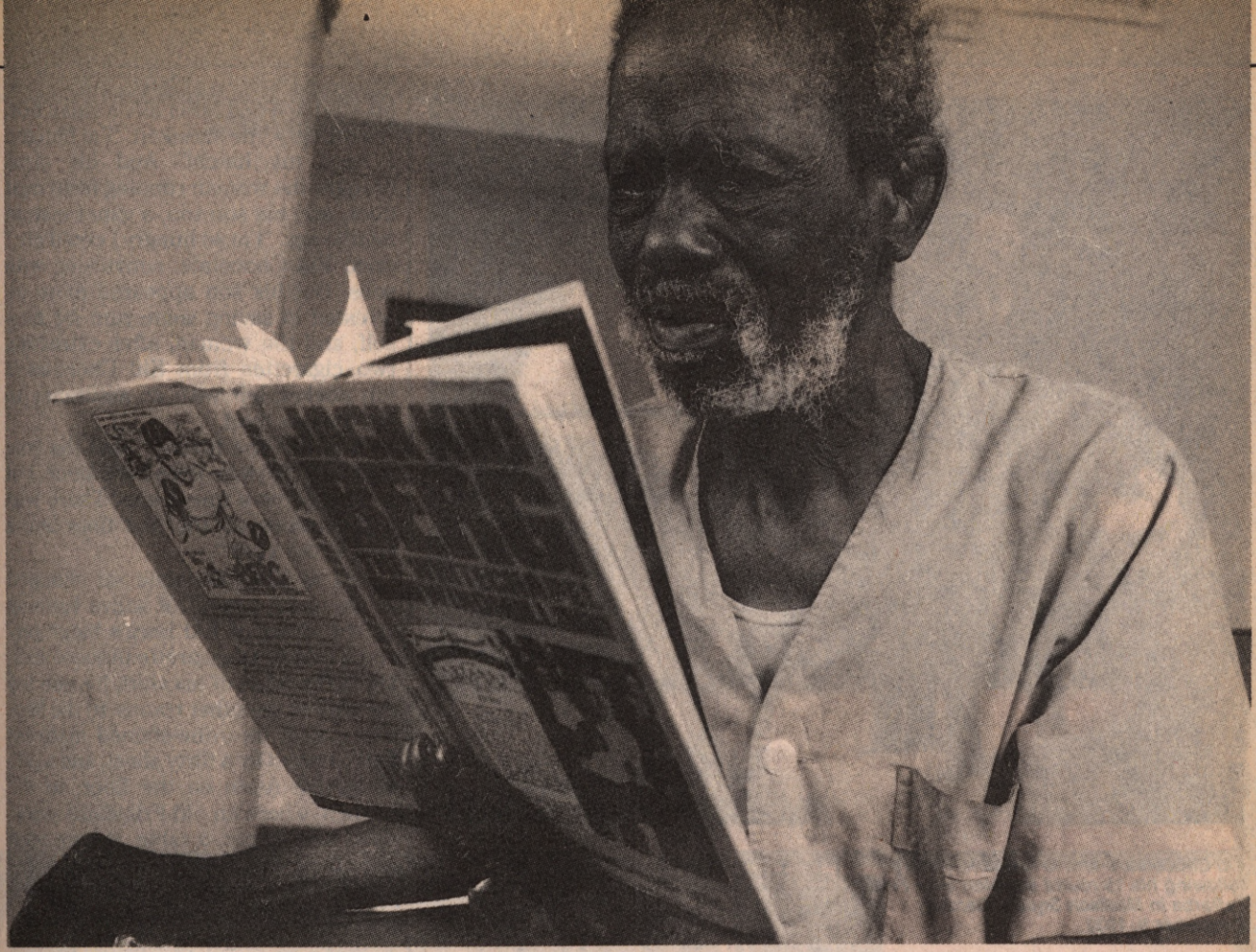


PHOTO BY ANDREW PALMER

Kid Chocolate relives happier days as he looks at Kid Berg's recently published autobiography. The two "Kids" fought a pair of memorable bouts in the early 1930s.

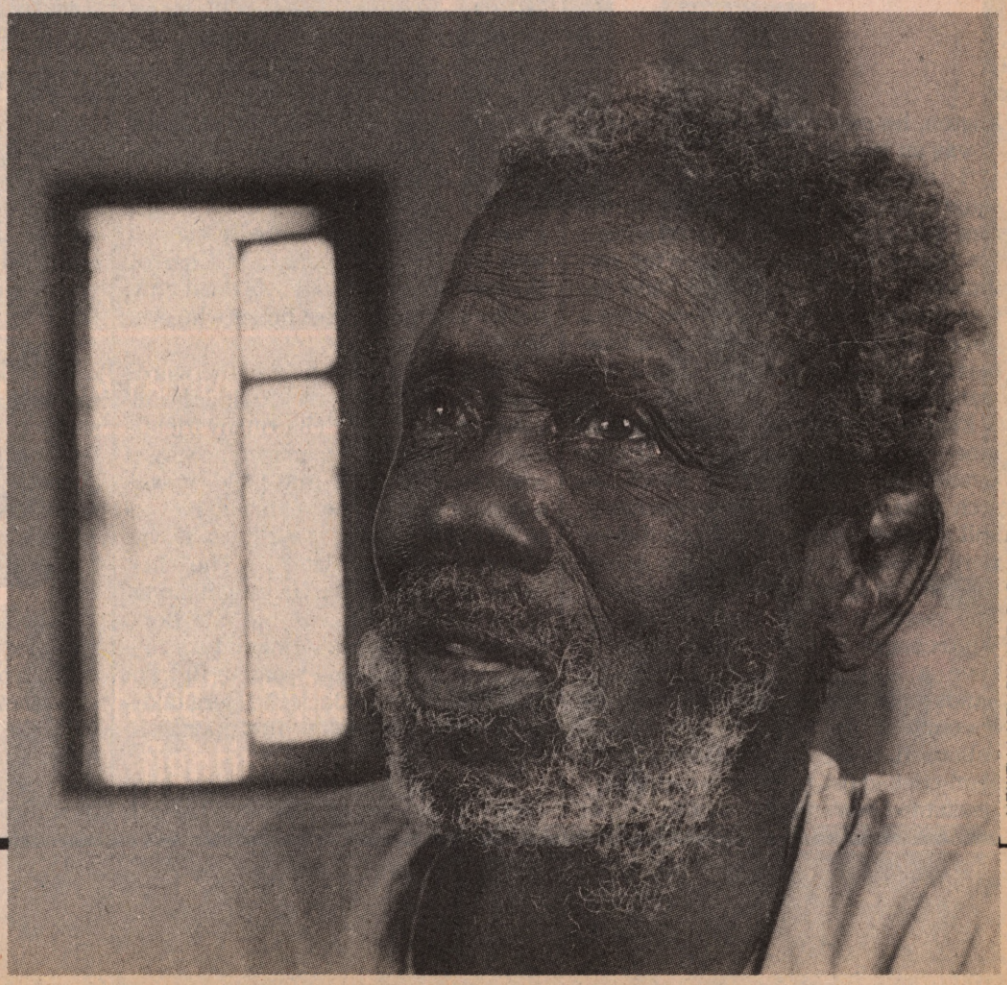
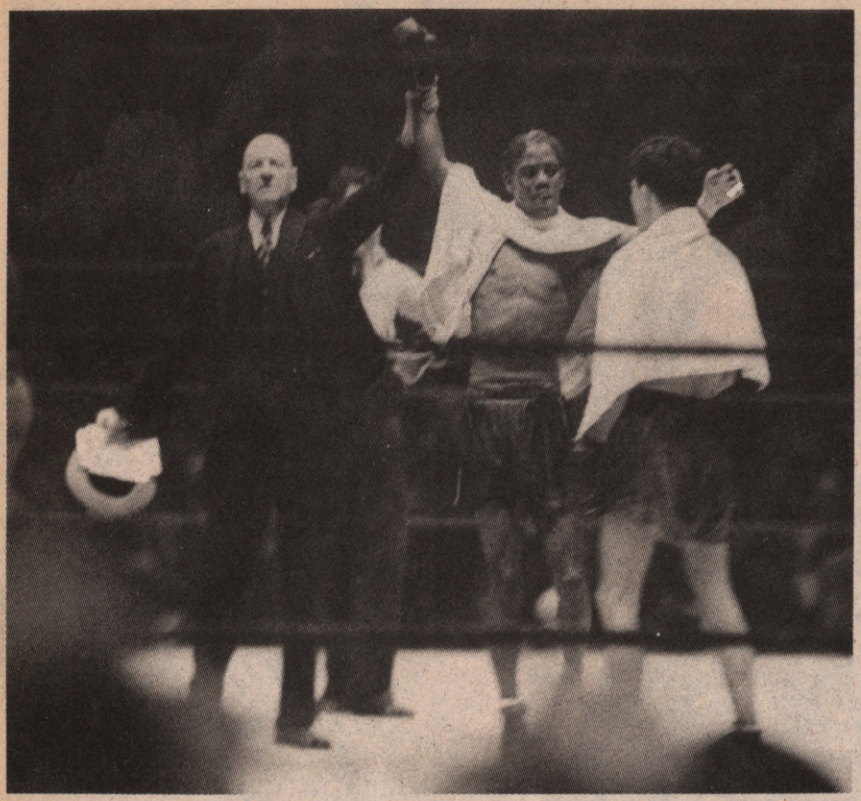


PHOTO BY ANDREW PALMER

This is how Kid Chocolate, the man Damon Runyon once described as "exquisitely handsome," looks today.



Kid Chocolate's arm is raised in victory following his 15-round decision over Fidel LaBarba in Madison Square Garden, December 9, 1932.

lington, he called me King Chocolate. It was an honor.

"I owned three houses on this square, and my cars, of course. Now I rent this house from the government. I'm happy. People say 'before the revolution' . . . but there was no Cuba before the revolution. Unless you were a boxer, or a dancer in the nightclubs, perhaps it wasn't so good. But I had many friends."

Kid Chocolate proffered his glass for more rum and wrapped his fingers around the cigarette butt which, an inch past its normal life-expectancy, still glowed between his teeth. Taking Berg's book, he ran his hands across its cover in slow, affectionate strokes. The memory of his battles with the Whitechapel Whirlwind appeared to have a soothing effect, though his hands bore the legacy of such brutal encounters, his knuckles grotesquely calloused, locked in the position of a semi-cocked fist, to the extent that they resembled more the talons of a bird of prey than human possessions.

"Ah, Jack . . . Kid . . . Berg," he said. "We fought twice and the judges gave it to him both times. The first time I cried. It was my first loss. At the finish I had 392 bouts. Do you know how many I lost? Seven losses out of 392 fights. Canzoneri was the best fighter I ever boxed and Fidel LaBarba the strongest. But Kid Berg was the bravest. Round after round he would come at you. The first time we fought I was terrified! But the greatest boxer who lived was a Cuban. Kid Charrol. He was before me, and he's dead now, but he was the greatest boxer who ever lived."

There was more rum and the words began to slur and stick, with the alcohol, in his throat. "I had many friends then . . . Pincho, my manager, he stayed with me to the end. And Jack. He was a good friend. A few years ago he was in Miami. The first thing he said was 'Where's Kid Chocolate?' And he came to see me, in Havana. He caught a boat from Miami just to see me. Kid Berg, he was a good-looking man. Like myself, and I had many women. But I'm happy. Every year Jack Kid Berg takes the boat from Miami to Havana just to see me. . . ."

Then an extraordinary thing happened. Kid Chocolate began to clutch his stomach and howl like a small boy. "I'm hungry," he shrieked. "I'm hungry! I need my lunch!" And his pleas brought the woman running from next door, and his son too, a gaunt man in middle age. "I'm so hungry I could die," cried Kid Chocolate, convulsing with sobs. But his son appeared more interested in saving some rum for himself, and the woman, after extracting two cigarettes from Kid Chocolate's top pocket, left with an assurance to fetch some food.

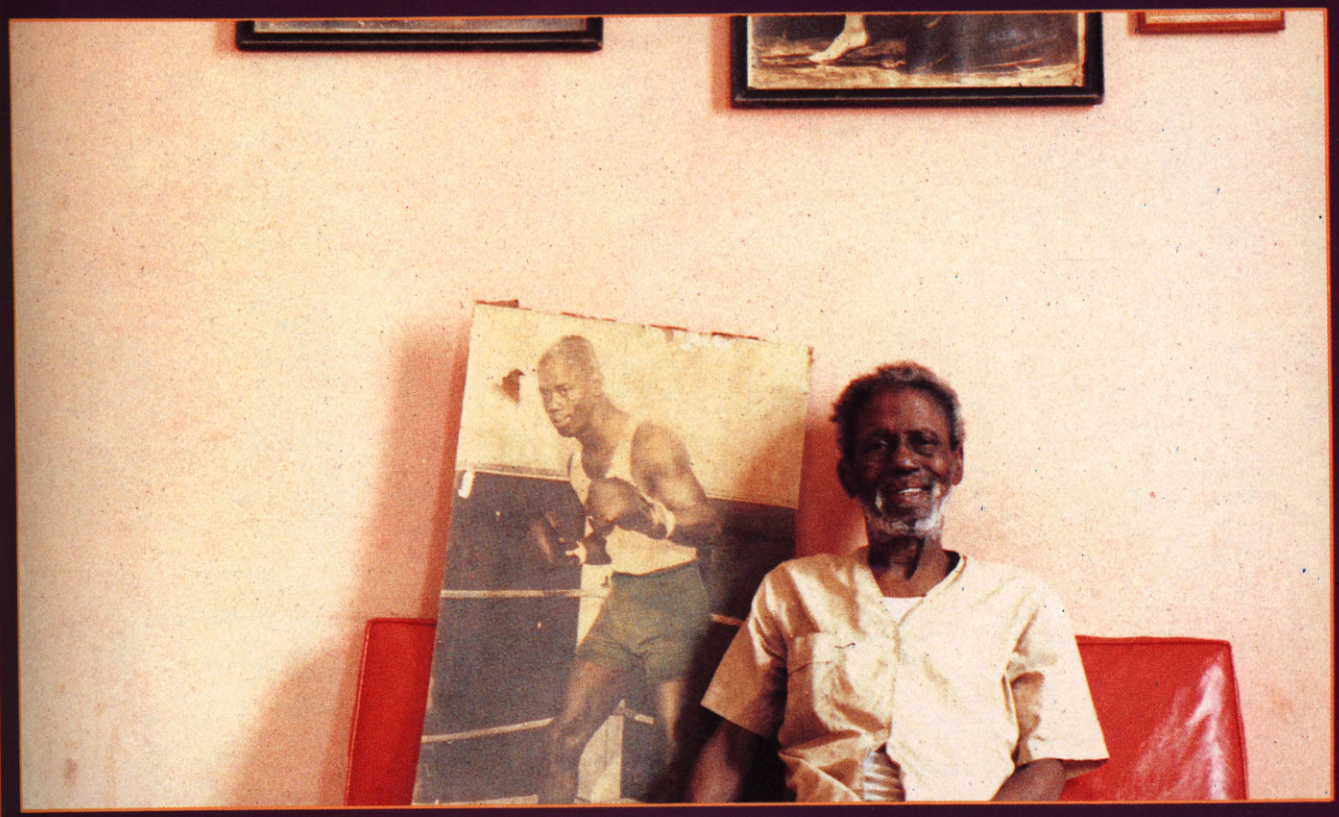
"You like the house?" said the son, grinning. "Now he lives here alone, but it used to be a fine house. There was a gymnasium on the first floor and a ring in the yard."

And as Kid Chocolate sat slumped in his chair, a pool of saliva forming on the cover of Kid Berg's biography and a huddle of cigarette butts collecting in the folds of his shirt, his son led the way to the other rooms: to the bedroom, with its urine-stained mattress half covered by a dirty sheet, and a pile of human feces on the floor; to the kitchen, where an old Frigidaire stood open and empty, a table, strewn with old bones being picked by cockroaches; and to further rooms, shrouded in cobwebs, which had not been used, perhaps entered, for years.

From one such room the son emerged, beaming proudly, with a brown bundle under his arm. "Feel it," he said. "Pure silk." He unravelled it gingerly, as if in the presence of a religious artifact, and laid it on the floor. It could have been a moth-eaten old dressing gown, but of course it wasn't: etched in white letters, transported without blemish, it seemed, across the years, were the words, CHOCOLATE KID.

More shrieks emanated from the front of the house, but by the time we reached him Kid Chocolate had been sedated with rum and now sat, his head flopped forward, beside the empty bottle, beneath the photographs of himself and Jack Kid Berg, watched by the woman from next door and two youths drawn from the street by the commotion.

Through this small gathering marched the son, who, gathering his father's passive body in one arm, began to squeeze it into the old fighting robe with the other. And everyone in the room suddenly felt the need to avert their eyes; for the impression was that of someone dressing a corpse. □



Chocolate sits next to a portrait of himself at his home in Havana.

PHOTOS BY ANDREW PALMER

"The Keed" strikes a fighting pose.

The RING RATINGS AS OF JUNE 3, 1988

HEAVYWEIGHTS (No Weight Limit) WORLD CHAMPION

MICHAEL SPINKS	Missouri
1. Mike Tyson	New York
2. Evander Holyfield	Georgia
3. Tim Witherspoon	Pennsylvania
4. Tony Tucker	Michigan
5. Carl Williams	New York
6. Pinklon Thomas	Michigan
7. Adilson Rodrigues	Brazil
8. Donovan Ruddock	Canada
9. Trevor Berbick	Florida
10. Johnny Du Plooy	South Africa

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS (Not Over 175 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

TITLE VACANT	
1. Charles Williams	Ohio
2. Virgil Hill	North Dakota
3. Dennis Andries	England
4. Don Lalonde	Canada
5. Tony Willis	Illinois
6. Bobby Czyz	New Jersey
7. Fulgencio Obelmejias	Venezuela
8. Chong-Pal Park	Korea
9. Lindell Holmes	Michigan
10. Ramzi Hassan	California

MIDDLEWEIGHTS (Not Over 160 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

TITLE VACANT	
1. Thomas Hearns	Michigan
2. Sumbu Kalambay	Italy
3. Frank Tate	Texas
4. Michael Nunn	California
5. Marvin Hagler	Massachusetts
6. Iran Barkley	New York
7. Mike McCallum	Jamaica
8. Matthew Hilton	Canada
9. Herol Graham	England
10. Gianfranco Rosi	Italy

WELTERWEIGHTS (Not Over 147 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

LLOYD HONEYGHAN	England
1. Marlon Starling	Connecticut
2. Simon Brown	Washington, D.C.
3. Maurice Blocker	Washington, D.C.
4. Mark Breland	New York
5. Jorge Vaca	Mexico
6. Rollin Williams	Arizona
7. Juan Martin Coggi	Argentina
8. Roger Mayweather	Nevada
9. James McGirt	New York
10. Meldrick Taylor	Pennsylvania

LIGHTWEIGHTS (Not Over 135 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

TITLE VACANT	
1. Julio Cesar Chavez	Mexico
2. Greg Haugen	Washington
3. Pernell Whitaker	Virginia
4. Jose Luis Ramirez	Mexico
5. Edwin Rosario	Puerto Rico
6. Vinny Pazienza	Rhode Island
7. Rocky Lockridge	New Jersey
8. Amancio Castro	Colombia
9. Primo Ramos	Mexico
10. Lupe Suarez	Texas

FEATHERWEIGHTS (Not Over 126 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

ANTONIO ESPARRAGOZA	Venezuela
1. Jeff Fenech	Australia
2. Calvin Grove	Pennsylvania
3. Bernardo Pinango	Venezuela
4. Jeff Franklin	Nevada
5. Hector Lopez	Mexico
6. Marcos Villasana	Mexico
7. Victor Callejas	Puerto Rico
8. Steve Cruz	Texas
9. Julio Gervacio	Puerto Rico
10. Jesus Poll	California

BANTAMWEIGHTS (Not Over 118 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

TITLE VACANT	
1. Miguel Lora	Colombia
2. Kaosai Galaxy	Thailand
3. Kelvin Seabrooks	South Carolina
4. Gilberto Roman	Mexico
5. Raul Perez	Mexico
6. Kaokor Galaxy	Thailand
7. Santos Laciar	Argentina
8. Sugar Baby Rojas	Colombia
9. Wilfredo Vasquez	Puerto Rico
10. Takuya Muguruma	Japan

FLYWEIGHTS (Not Over 112 Pounds) WORLD CHAMPION

SOT CHITALADA	Thailand
1. Jung-Koo Chang	Korea
2. Fidel Bassa	Colombia
3. Myung-Woo Yuh	Korea
4. Hilario Zapata	Panama
5. Rolando Bohol	*Philippines*
6. Gabriel Bernal	*Mexico*
7. Dodie Penalosa	*Philippines*
8. Paul Gonzalez	Colombia
9. Benedicto Murillo	Panama
10. Duke McKenzie	England

The RING CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 1988

Tim Witherspoon

1 THURSDAY
1973—Rodrigo Valdez W12 Bennie Briscoe, wins NABF middleweight title.

2 FRIDAY
1985—Sugar Ray Leonard denies any thought of coming back to fight Marvin Hagler.

3 SATURDAY
1919—Harry Greb ND10 Battling Levinsky.

4 SUNDAY
1915—Les Darcy W20 Billy Murray, retains Australian world middleweight title in Sydney.

5 MONDAY
1899—Kid McCoy KO3 Geoffrey Thorne in New York City.

6 TUESDAY
1917—Charley Burley born in Bessemer, Pa.

7 WEDNESDAY
1923—Ohio world middleweight champion Jock Malone W10 Lou Bogash, New York world middleweight champion.

8 THURSDAY
1931—Ben Jeby D10 Dave Shade.

9 FRIDAY
1857—Nat Langham D60 Ben Caunt.

10 SATURDAY
1943—Joe Agosta W6 Rocky Graziano in New York City.

11 SUNDAY
1958—Gene Fullmer W10 Spider Webb, disputed decision in Salt Lake City.

12 MONDAY
1951—Sugar Ray Robinson TKO10 Randy Turpin, regains world middleweight championship in New York.

13 TUESDAY
1950—Jake LaMotta KO15 Laurent Dauthuille in Detroit, retains world middleweight championship in final seconds in *The Ring's* Fight of the Year and Round of the Year.

14 WEDNESDAY
1886—Stanley Ketchel born in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

15 THURSDAY
1981—Tony Sibson KO3 Alan Minter for European middleweight title in Wembley. Minter's last fight.

16 FRIDAY
1918—Steve Belloise born in The Bronx.

17 SATURDAY
1886—Billy Papke born, Spring Valley, Illinois.

18 SUNDAY
1976—Eckhart Dagge W15 Emile Griffith for WBC junior middleweight title in Berlin.

19 MONDAY
1951—Rocky Graciano TKO10 Tony Janiro in Detroit.

20 TUESDAY
1932—Freddie Steele, future NBA and New York world middleweight titleholder, KO2 Ceferino Garcia, future world middleweight champion, in Los Angeles.

21 WEDNESDAY
1948—Marcel Cerdan TKO12 Tony Zale, wins world middleweight championship in *The Ring's* Fight of the Year in Jersey City. Zale's last fight.

22 THURSDAY
1964—Emile Griffith W15 Brian Curvis, retains world welterweight championship in Wembley.

23 FRIDAY
1957—Carmen Basilio W15 Ray Robinson, wins world middleweight championship in *The Ring's* Fight of the Year in New York.

24 SATURDAY
1941—Jimmy Reeves W10 Jake LaMotta, Cleveland. LaMotta's first loss.

25 SUNDAY
1971—Carlos Monzon TKO14 Emile Griffith in Buenos Aires, retains world middleweight championship.

26 MONDAY
1932—Max Schmeling TKO8 former world middleweight champion Mickey Walker.

27 TUESDAY
1946—Tony Zale KO6 Rocky Graziano, retains world middleweight championship in New York in *The Ring's* Fight of the Year and Round of the Year.

28 WEDNESDAY
1945—Rocky Graziano KO3 Harold Green in New York, reversing two previous losses to Green.

29 THURSDAY
1967—Emile Griffith W15 Nino Benvenuti, regains world middleweight championship in New York.

30 FRIDAY
1985—Sugar Ray Leonard again denies any thought of coming back to face Marvin Hagler.

An Exclusive Interview

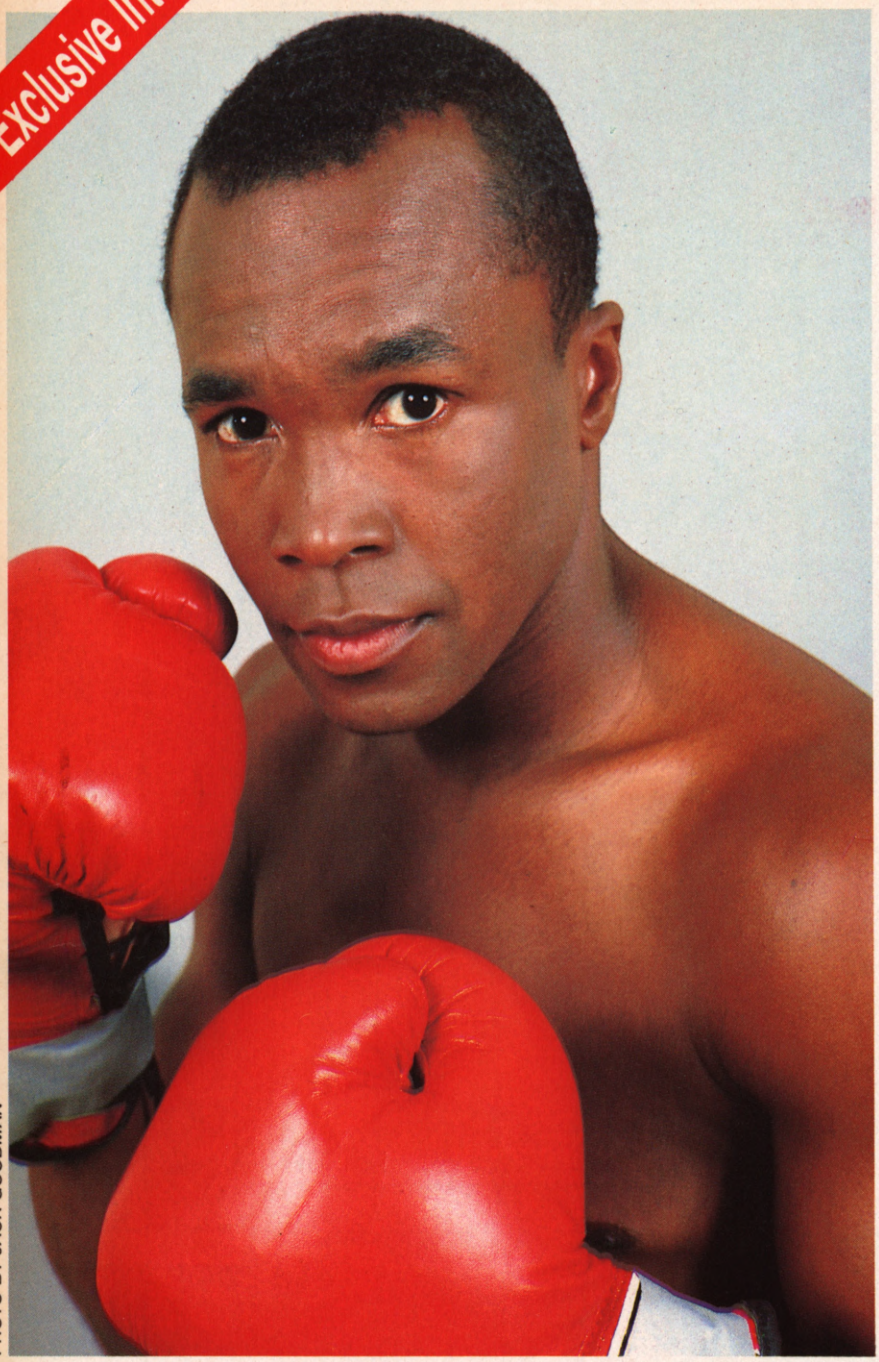


PHOTO BY JACK GOODMAN

SUGAR RAY LEONARD ON THE CUSP... OF A COMEBACK

by Nigel Collins

Hardly a day goes by at The Ring *when somebody doesn't ask if Sugar Ray Leonard is going to fight again. Though he hasn't thrown a punch in earnest since his brilliant upset over Marvelous Marvin Hagler a year ago, Leonard has maintained a stranglehold on the imagination of the boxing world. A consummate tease, both in and out of the ring, he loves to tantalize us with hints of his impending return, then ducks the issue as adroitly as he avoided most of Hagler's lethal blows. I was convinced he'll fight again before conducting this interview May 26, 1988. Nothing he said has changed my mind.*

There's a reason for Leonard's immense success that goes beyond his athletic skills, beyond his considerable charm and intelligence. Leonard is someone special, a rare individual who has the guts to flick a jab in the face of conformity. He does whatever he wants to do and comes up smelling like a million bucks. Or, as is often the case, several million bucks. But, he has done it all with a touch of class, lending dignity to a sport frequently lacking in that elusive quality.

The ranks of boxing superstars are pretty thin right now. Since Leonard's re-retirement, there has been Mike Tyson, then nobody. Boxing could use the kind of adrenaline rush another Leonard fight would surely produce. But who would be the opponent? Well, the list of possibilities is quite short. All recent rumors have revolved around three men: Hagler, Thomas Hearns and Don Lalonde. Take your pick.

Leonard was in New York City in connection with his work with Home Box Office when we got together at his hotel suite for a gab and photo session. He greeted us dressed in a black velvet smoking jacket, looking every inch the millionaire celebrity he is. But there's no pretense with Sugar Ray. No phony baloney, no jive. After five minutes in his presence, you feel like he has been your buddy for years. This ability to make you feel comfortable and relaxed in his company is just another of his numerous gifts, one which he's always used to good advantage when dealing with the press.

Leonard was interested in all the fight gossip from Gerry Cooney's comeback as a promoter to Hagler's movie debut. The more we talked, the more it became obvious Sugar Ray still has a Jones for the Sweet Science and still depends on it for fulfillment. In the end, Leonard will be back because he needs boxing . . . almost as much as boxing needs him.

THE RING: You seem to be busier now than when you were fighting. How many irons do you have in the fire?

RAY LEONARD: I just signed with Frank B. Hall, who is an insurance broker. We kind of have the same philosophy about comebacks because they've made comebacks and been successful, too. But we know comebacks aren't for everyone. I also have a radio show back home. It's called the "Spirit of Sports." It's a syndicated show on Mutual Broadcasting, a weekly, two-minute interview show. I've interviewed Larry Holmes. I interviewed Tommy Hearns after he won his fourth title. It's an upbeat show. I've been doing it about a year or two. Then there's my Coors boxing team, which is still going strong.

THE RING: Speaking of your relationship with Coors: You've always had a squeaky-clean image. Did you give it much consideration before becoming associated with a company which manufactures alcoholic beverages?

LEONARD: I thought about that, I really threw it around a bit. But then I rationalized and reached the conclusion that if some company, whether they make alcohol or not, has the funds to enhance one's career, why not take advantage of that vehicle? Even the Olympics have companies (which manufacture alcohol) sponsoring our team. Coors has been very, very helpful and cooperative, not just with my professional team, but with other young men around the country. That's been my main objective, to make sure other guy's careers move along.

THE RING: What, exactly, is your job with the United States Olympic boxing team?

LEONARD: They call me the technical advisor. I don't train the guys. There's been a big misconception. Even as far as my professional Coors team goes, I'm not a trainer. I can't train. All I can do is give them techniques, give them strategies. And that's also what I do for the Olympic team. I suggest watching films, I suggest doing more calisthenics, especially around the stomach. I stress more lateral movement because I've been in the ring with the best amateur boxers, the Cubans, the Russians and all the Eastern Bloc countries.

THE RING: You have been very outspoken with your criticism of the United States Olympic boxing team. What do you see as the big problem?

LEONARD: An example took place a couple of weeks ago in Atlantic City, the Cuba versus USA. We had the talent, we had the resources. We just didn't have the right attitude, the right discipline, the right motivation. All this stems from the pro involvement. We have this thing now, Olympic Gold, I think they call it. It supplements a guy's pay. I understand that and I really don't have a problem with it. But if a young man is going to represent the United States, he must obey every rule and live up to every standard. There must be the same criterion for everyone. If we (the USA) need you to compete against the Cubans or the Russians, you've got to compete. Don't say, 'Well, I can bypass this guy because my chances are better waiting until next month to fight.' It's like professional boxing. They're choosing their opponents!

THE RING: Okay, but what about yourself? You're a manager of pro boxers and an advisor to the Olympic boxing team. How do you respond to those who say your involvement is like letting the fox run free in the chicken house?

LEONARD: I thought it was rather cute. Plus, I think it's true. I manage professional fighters and I haven't made it a secret. If my involvement is to recruit these young men, it would be counterproductive. This may sound a little patriotic, but I believe it should mean more to win an Olympic medal than becoming champion of the world. I would be willing to sign an affidavit saying I will not recruit, discuss or even talk to a young man about his professional career. And I think all (involved with the United States Olympic boxing team) should sign one.

THE RING: What are some of the other adverse ways you feel the pro involvement is hurting our Olympic boxing team?

LEONARD: There's no team concept. It's not a team anymore. When the Cubans fought us (in Atlantic City), they rooted each other on. We didn't root each other on.

THE RING: You mean there is little camaraderie?

LEONARD: Camaraderie! That's a joke. For example, there was one young man who couldn't make weight. His teammates didn't support him. They didn't say, 'Come on, man. You can do it.' They didn't do anything to raise his spirits.

THE RING: Is there still time to turn things around before the 1988 Games in Seoul?

LEONARD: I say yes. And do you know why I say yes? It's because we have the talent. Damn it, if we didn't have the talent, I'd tell you. These young men have so much talent, it's pathetic. What is happening is that it's all going down the drain because of personal interest, because individual accomplishment is considered more important than the team.

THE RING: Is anyone with the power to do anything about it listening to you?

LEONARD: Time will tell. But it's like (the sands in) an hourglass are falling. We don't have much time left.

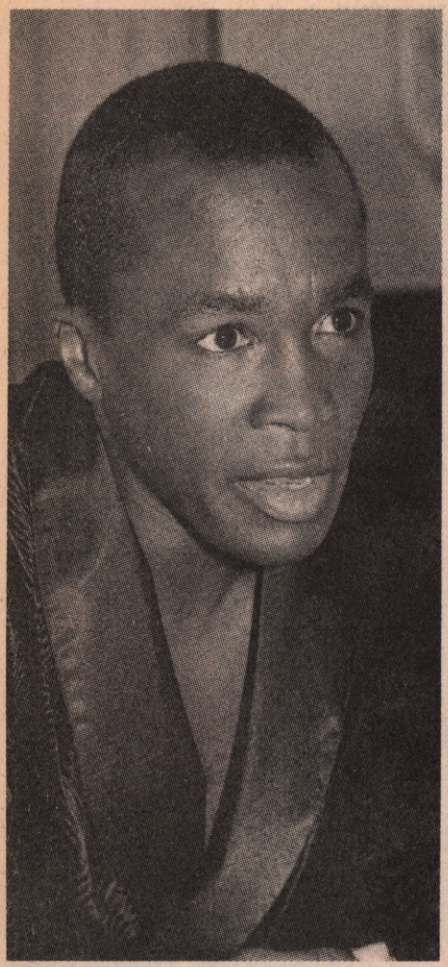
THE RING: Let's leave the amateurs for awhile and talk about your Coors pro team. Who are some of the outstanding prospects you're working with?

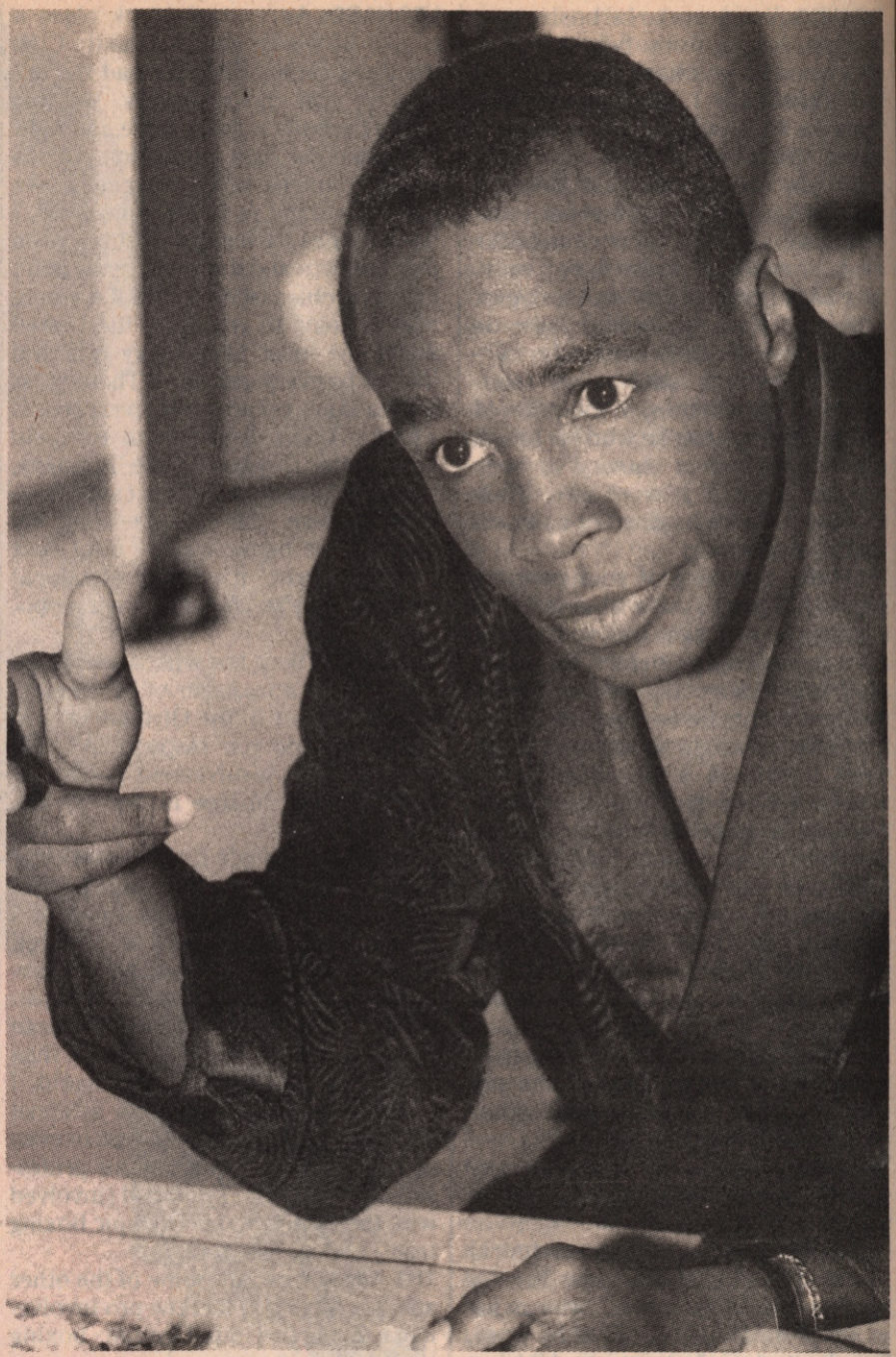
LEONARD: Quincy Taylor is a young middleweight from Dallas, Texas I have high hopes for. But I'm letting him fight one fight at a time and move up in the ranks. No question about it, he's one of the hardest punchers out there. He's the guy who rocked me in Las Vegas five days prior to the (Hagler) fight. The guy rocked me and buckled my knees bad. But I hate to patronize my guys too much. It's deserving, but sometimes you can give too much. Of course, I have my criterion (for selecting boxers to work with). Having talent is one thing, but having the right attitude is another. Sometimes there are personality conflicts. I'm not going to deal with that. I don't deal with that. My thing is not to give out those huge bonuses, hundreds of thousands of dollars to everyone. They don't deserve it yet. When I had my sponsorship, I had to pay it back.

THE RING: What about the other side of the coin? Doesn't it sometimes get to you when you're working with one of your fighters and he doesn't do what you want him to, can't do things you know you could do if you were in the ring instead of him?

LEONARD: Yes, but I'm trying to divorce myself from that. I've always felt that when a person gets into the ring they should do what they want to do. But when a guy has trained and conditioned himself, I feel he should be able to execute those things he's worked on. And it's frustrating when they don't even *try* to do it. When Shawn O'Sullivan lost to Luis Santana it was very frustrating. He said, 'Man,

PHOTOS BY JACK GOODMAN





I feel flat, I don't have it.' I said, 'Damn it, make it happen. Be a fighter. Make it happen.' It's frustrating, but I think I'm handling it a little bit better. At least I hope I am.

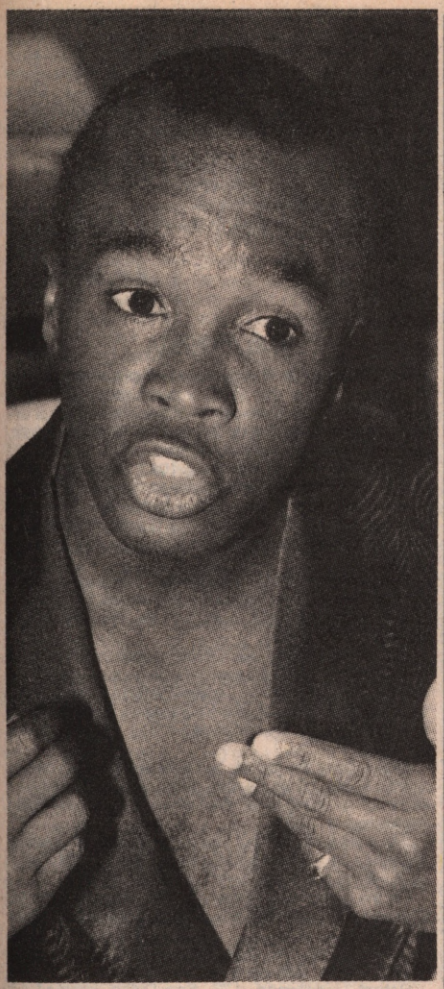
THE RING: Another important part of your career is working the big fights for HBO. You seem to be much more comfortable behind the mike than when you began your broadcasting career.

LEONARD: Years ago, I was unprofessional. I was lousy, I was awful. But I try to put things into perspective. When I wasn't fighting during my first retirement, I was not a happy man. It was still haunting me that I wasn't finished yet (as a fighter). Hagler was on the rise. I said, 'Damn it Ray, stop kidding yourself.' Hagler was a prerequisite for me in order to fulfill my life. When that was taken care of, I could apply myself to my work at HBO. I used to wing it. At first, just being Sugar Ray Leonard was enough. But that gets old. The novelty wears off and soon the critics start saying, 'Okay, this guy is earning X amount of dollars, let's listen to him.' I would turn the volume down, all the way down. I said, 'Jeez, I sound awful. I sound like a guy with a wad of bubble gum in his mouth. I'm chewing my words up. So, I started practicing by talking into the mirror. My wife looked at me like I was crazy and said, 'You okay, Ray?' I started taking speech classes, trying to improve my articulation. I didn't want to be just another jock with a headset.

THE RING: You also seem to be expressing your opinions more, instead of just parroting the other announcers.

LEONARD: I once heard a guy say, "The next time Sugar Ray says 'That guy's not sweating, he may go down in the first round,' I'm gonna' kill him." I thought it was great. It woke me up. I thought, 'Ray, they're starting to listen to what you're saying.' I used to bs people. I would never be cynical or negative. Now, I'm more objective. I say what's on my mind. Those boxing fans are not dumb. They're very sophisticated, very intelligent.

THE RING: Many people didn't want you to come back and fight Marvelous



Marvin Hagler. Have you derived a lot of satisfaction in proving them wrong?

LEONARD: You've got to understand how fickle people are, writers and everyone else. I'm fickle myself. I change up, too. Prior to the Hagler fight, people kept saying I shouldn't do it and that I was crazy. Fine, I'm all those things they said I was. But I don't care what people say. I'm very sensitive to people's opinions, but I'm gonna' do what I want with my body. Beating Hagler has given me far more peace of mind than anything else in the world I could have done. It's a wonderful feeling doing what you want to do and knowing you can do it. When people say you can't do this, you can't do that, it becomes a stimulus.

THE RING: Were you surprised at the way Hagler took his defeat, his sour grapes attitude?

LEONARD: No, because the only identity Marvin had was his belt. He still claims his belt. He says, 'I feel within my heart I'm still champion.' Here's a man 33 years old who says he's still the champion (Leonard allowed himself a condescending chuckle). I kind of figured he'd be that way. From day one, I beat him. That's why he doesn't like me now. During the fight, I knew I had him in the first round when I grabbed the rope and he went like this (Leonard demonstrated by covering his head with his arms), and I thought, 'Wow, what do we have here?' Here was a man doing things which were totally uncharacteristic. He was talking to me. He was calling me a "little bitch" and telling me to "stand up and fight." I didn't talk to him until the last round when I said, 'You wanna' fight me now?'

THE RING: You were quoted not long after beating Hagler as saying it was still hard for you to believe that it really happened. Has the reality finally hit home?

LEONARD: Yes, it's been over a year. I've learned to accept what happened. I did it. And what may happen four or five months from now, it's going to happen because I want it to happen.

THE RING: Now we're getting down to the realy nitty-gritty. There have been many rumors about you fighting again. What's the real story?

LEONARD: Let me be perfectly honest with you. I considered Donny Lalonde. I wanted to see tapes of him. I also pursued a match with Hagler. I brought it to my attorney's attention, but Hagler was inundated with movie requests and other proposals at the time. I've considered a number of options.

THE RING: What about Hearns and his four so-called world titles?

LEONARD: Hey, God bless him. Tommy is trying for his fifth, or is it seventh, title now. Whichever it is, I think it's an inferiority complex. A lot of guys think that if they win four or five titles they're going to be bigger than Ray Leonard or bigger than Ali. But you know, you're only as big as the people see you. I don't care how tall you are or how many things you've accomplished. you can't call yourself the people's champion or the people's favorite. The people themselves decide that.

THE RING: What is your personal opinion of the split titles situation?

LEONARD: I think it's rather confusing, quite confusing to the average boxing fan. But it's economics. This guy is a champ, that guy is a champ and they meet in a unification. I don't have a major problem with it. I was a participant and won the WBC, WBA titles. But I'm for unifying everything.

THE RING: Boxing had a unified middleweight champion in Hagler, but you beat him and instantly retired again. Now we have three middleweight champions.

LEONARD: It's almost like I have to come back to straighten things up a bit.

THE RING: This article won't hit the newsstands until the last week in July. Can we expect some sort of announcement concerning your future by then?

LEONARD: I guarantee you'll hear something by then.

THE RING: Can you give us a clue as to who your opponent will be?

LEONARD: It probably will be a male.

THE RING: All right, you're obviously not going to tell us who you're going to fight, but one thing you've always said is that you need a challenge. Would fighting a much bigger man such as a light heavyweight or a cruiser be a challenge?

LEONARD: Not a cruiserweight, but maybe a light heavy. My weight has always been a real deciding factor. I can still fight at 147. A month ago I was 149, and that's just by playing tennis. If anything is going to happen to my weight, it's going to be closer to welter than middleweight or light heavy.

THE RING: Regardless of whether you fight again or not, wouldn't you say you've had a fantastic career, almost as if you'd written the script yourself.

LEONARD: You're right. As far as a career goes, I'd have to say mine's been like a storybook.

THE RING: Do you ever wonder why you've been so lucky, so blessed?

LEONARD: Certain things are predestined, meant to be. I'm not an overly religious man, but I believe in God.

THE RING: Is there anything you would change if you could?

LEONARD: Yes, I didn't listen to my wife as much as I should have. Her perception of people could have saved me heartaches, heartbreaks, headaches . . . and a couple of dollars.

THE RING: Are you listening to her more now?

LEONARD: Damn right! I mean that in all sincerity. I wish I had listened to my wife a little bit more . . . a whole lot more.

THE RING: What do you see for Sugar Ray Leonard at age 50?

LEONARD: I hate to think about that, but hopefully I'll have a hotel right beside Trump Plaza. □

RINGS AROUND THE WORLD

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

ARIZONA

▶**PHOENIX**—Studio West—Two-thirds of Phoenix's top talent was showcased in a fine nightclub fight card, and while Cassius Clay Horne carried his end of the co-feature, the star of the state appears to be NABF super bantamweight titlist **Louie "Sharpshooter" Espinoza,** who filled the place with howling, standing-room-only fans.

A former WBA junior featherweight titleholder, Espinoza, 126, scored the 23rd KO in his 29-2 record, this one coming quickly over Francisco Pena, 126½, Mexico, who fell to 12-5. Espinoza adjourned the scheduled 10 at 1:14 of the second, being easily in control of his tough, but limited foe every moment of the brief, bruising way.

The contest did provide action as long as it went, Espinoza sticking jabs downward, while the small, but muscular Pena bobbed and weaved. Espinoza prevailed in each of many flurries, showing the calm precision that earned him his nickname. Midway in the frame, a straight right put a skid in Pena's round square dance, and a left put circles into the dazed Pena's eyes. Espinoza pounded away until the bell, but Pena survived. But early in the second Espinoza slammed in another torpedo right, then sank Pena with a wicked left. Pena barely beat 10 referee fingers only to stumble into a right-left combo that thudded home in harsh prelude to a right conker that reintroduced Pena to the floor. This time, Pena didn't beat the count.

"My attitude is better than ever," said Espinoza. "I'm working harder in the gym, and I love it. I plan to box a long time. My best days are ahead."

Horne, 142, Eloy, is also on the verge of hitting the top with a 22-2-1 record with 20 KOs. Floyd Peavy, San Antonio, became the latest victim, falling to 15-5 when Horne flattened him in the seventh of their scheduled 10.

It might not have been as easy as Horne made it appear, but his brawny, swarming style swept every round. Stablemate **Rollin Williams**, the third member of Arizona's elite, showed vocal delight as Horne speared the body early with both hands. By the third, Peavy had learned to dodge many lunges, but he was losing ground. Suddenly, in the fourth, a left put Peavy senseless, then a right put him flat. He wobbled up and lasted to the bell.

Horne charged out for the fifth, but Peavy was counterpunching and out of immediate danger. Horne was frustrated, but switched to a body attack without rushing in frantically.

Regarding the virtues of patience, Horne later said, "He was just playing that old con game. I needed a lot of body work to get him."

Peavy hung tough and kept it competitive until Horne's aggression finally set up the flattening at 2:27 of the seventh. A final barrage found Peavy draped across the ropes trying to pull himself from the mat. It was announced that ref Ron Myers had stopped the contest, but Peavy couldn't have beaten the count.

Horne, content with his showing, said, "I went out more or less pacing myself this time, satisfied with a lot of body work."

The "Scrap of the Card" highlighted **Jose "Pepo" Quinones,** 162, Puerto Rico, against tough Jerome Kelly, 159, Akron, Ohio. Records varied for both fighters, depending on who you asked. But both were quality athletes. Action was delayed 15 minutes during the second round when the ropes broke, but **Jimmy Montoya** saved the day with his construction skill. Destruction skills showed as Quinones pressured throughout the fight, constantly clipping and sagging Kelly, who refused to wilt amidst rapid exchanges.

But by the sixth, Kelly was fatigued, tying up and ready to exit at any stage. In the seventh, Quinones hurled so many good punches it was hard to tell which one did the most damage.

Between rounds, Kelly's corner implored the doctor and ref to allow another round. Kelly got the chance, commendably attempted to press the action, but couldn't. Trapped in his own corner, Kelly was rescued by ref Roger Yanez for a TKO at 1:19 of the eighth. The crowd yelped, and Yanez has, rightfully, taken heat before, but on this night his calls were excellent.

Another glimpse of the future was Kronk prospect Michael Moorer, 175, making it four fights, four KOs, in dispatching Dennis "The Fist" Fikes, 184½, Las Vegas. Moorer pressed and seemed to hurt his larger foe from the start. Fikes, 9-8-1, kept his gloves against his ears as if the crowd was yelling something he didn't want to hear. Moorer landed good punches every 10 seconds until a right put Fikes down. It could have been called, and Fikes showed class getting up. But the well-composed Moorer bounced him from corner to corner until he went down again. Spitting blood and sporting a puffed right eye, Fikes was allowed to come out for a second round and he immediately ate four rights and was dropped again. Fikes, shaming better-paid fighters who have surrendered after much less, rose again, prepared and willing to take more, but ref Al Munoz called TKO at 0:15.

It wasn't only lights out for Fikes. Outside the building, an old model car TKO'd a new model powerline, causing a blackout of almost an hour.

The appetizer saw Cal Christenson, Davenport, Iowa, TKO B. Grimm, 151, Las Vegas, at 1:46 of a set four. Both debutants started fast, but Grimm was hurt by a left to the body and a creaming left uppercut put him through a half-somersault. He was up at six, ready to try. But Yanez wouldn't let him, and the dazed Grimm was led from the ring.

Since Arizona action has been hindered by scuffles involving the commission and promotional interests, places such as nearby Las Vegas look to capitalize on available talent. A visiting group of research consultants included **Bob Arum,** Nevada commissioner Chuck Minker, matchmaker Bruce Trampler, **Emanuel Steward, Thomas Hearns** (scouting Quinones) and **Richie Sandoval.**

Promoter: Steve Eisner/Miller Lite Series.
Timekeepers: Tim Ackerman & Sam Munoz.
Physician: Charles Howard.
Judges: Greg Hughes, Bob Cox & Mike Munoz.
Attendance: 1,450 (Est.)
(5-10-88)

PHIL WOOLEVER

CALIFORNIA

▶**SACRAMENTO**—Kings Arena—**Loreto Garza,** 140, Sacramento, won the WBC international super lightweight title with a stunning, first-round knockout of defending titleholder **Harry Arroyo,** 140, Youngstown, Ohio, in the main event scheduled for 12.

Garza, who hasn't lost since 1983, improved his record to 20-1-1 with 18 KOs. Arroyo, 36-5 with 28 KOs, became the second consecutive former IBF lightweight titleholder to be KO'd quickly by Garza, who stopped **Charlie "Choo Choo" Brown** in four rounds February 12 here.

Arroyo never landed a punch as Garza pushed him back with a jab, followed with a double jab, then landed a right hand, left hook combo to the jaw, and Arroyo crashed to the deck.

Arroyo's manager, Joe Costello, claimed Arroyo was hit while down, but Garza and his manager, Don Conley, denied the accusation. Conley hedged a bit, though, telling Ben Swesey of *The Sacramento Bee,* "If he did, I didn't see it. Things happened so fast — I have to see the films."

Arroyo beat the count, but was wobbly and quickly floored again. When he rose again, Arroyo was backed into a corner being pummeled when referee Terry Smith intervened at 2:20.

"I'm a slow starter, but I've been working on keeping my hands up," Arroyo told Swesey. "I got caught. Thank God I didn't get badly hurt."

On the undercard, Robert Nunez, 140, Sacramento, knocked out Martin Morado, 140¼, San Diego, in eight rounds.

Kevin Carter, 145, Sacramento, knocked out Brian Rapier, 146¾, San Jose, in two.

Robert Underwood, 177, San Diego, knocked out Ben Strang, 179¾, Oroville, in the first.

Promoter: Don Chargin.
Attendance: 4,911.
(4-22-88)

▶**INGLEWOOD**—The Forum—**Lindell Holmes,** 166½, ranked No. 9 in the light heavyweight division by *The Ring,* kept busy, flattening Steve Darnell, 168, in two rounds.

Paul Banke, 122, knocked out Alberto Mercado, 121¾, in three rounds.

Robert Shannon, 122, knocked out **Irving Mitchell**, 122, in the eighth round.

Les Fabri, 124, won a six-round decision over Juvenal Molina, 124.

Terry Verners, 177, knocked out Rick Jester, 173, in the first round.

Angel Garcia, 129¾, won a four-round decision over Gary Jackson, 129.

Former bullfighter Randy Leaks, 195, Campo, California, stopped Tim Fryerson, 207, Los Angeles, in just 2:40 of a scheduled six. Leaks scored the third KO in his 3-0 record as Fryerson fell to 6-2-1 with five KOs. Fryerson was coming off an April 5, five-round KO of previously undefeated **Melton Bowen** of Miami. Leaks dropped Fryerson with a combination, then decked him again with a right to the chin and the fight was stopped.

Promoter: Forum Boxing.
(5-9-88)

▶**MONTEREY**—Hyatt Regency—California middleweight champion Tim Williams defended his title with a unanimous, 12-round decision over hometown favorite Herman Cavesuela.

The scores read 117-111, 116-112 and 116-113.

Cavesuela was cut near the left eye in the third round and spent the rest of the fight trying to stay out of further danger.

"I was trying to stay away from his overhand right after I got cut in the third," Cavesuela told Bob Hughes of *The Monterey Herald.* "It was like the (Milton) McCrory fight. After I got cut, it was a different fight."

But Williams, San Jose, almost took care of Cavesuela, anyway, hurting him in the eighth and almost dropping him in the ninth.

"He never hurt me or had me in trouble," Williams told Hughes. "The only thing that slowed me down was my bathroom scale. When I looked at it this morning, I discovered I had to lose a pound and a half before fight time. That hurt my speed and strength."

Salinas featherweight George Garcia stretched his record to 12-0 with nine KOs by decking Seattle's Puma Esquivel in the second round of a scheduled eight. Garcia pounded away with the left hook until Esquivel sank for the count.

The card opener had Seattle's Willie Nix and Salt Lake City's Jared Fevaleaki each making his pro bow, Nix staging a furious fourth-round rally to pull out a draw. Fevaleaki had the better of rounds two and three, but ran out of gas in the fourth as Nix rallied.

Southpaw lightweight Mark Ally, Salt Lake City, was awarded a questionable four-round verdict over Adolfo Mederos, Salinas.

A scheduled six ended midway through as Karema Leota, a Samoan fighting out of Salt Lake City, stopped Vancouver's Alan Harper at 2:03 of the third of a middleweight match. Leota, using a strong body attack, dropped Harper three times in the third.
(5-7-88)

▶**LOS ANGELES**—Inglewood Forum—A last-second, sixth-round knockdown made the difference as **Albert Davila** took the vacant NABF bantamweight title with a unanimous, 12-round decision over Gil Contreras.

The scores read 115-114 (twice) and 115-113 for the former WBC bantamweight titleholder who, at 33, raised his record to 55-9-1 with 26 KOs, while the 22-year-old Contreras fell to 14-4 with 11 knockouts.

Davila, who matched the 118 pounds of Contreras, boxed smartly and countered well, but took many solid shots from the aggressive Contreras. Davila was cut over both eyes, and Contreras was getting through when, just as the bell sounded to end Round Six, Davila landed a right to the chin and Contreras went down. He beat the count, but was unsteady heading for his corner.

By the eighth, Contreras was cut inside the mouth and his right eye was swollen and beginning to close, but he continued to score and was disappointed when he didn't receive the verdict. On the other hand, Davila was surprised at the closeness of the cards.

On the undercard, Jesus Salud advanced in the Stroh's super bantamweight tournament, coming from behind to knock out Detroit's Kirk Harris in the eighth of a scheduled 10. Salud, who had been inactive with a broken collarbone, was floored in the first round and trailed the first half of the bout. But Harris began tiring from Salud's body work and was dropped twice in the eighth, being counted out at 1:34 on his second trip to the deck.
(4-21-88)

▶**PASO ROBLES**—A 12-round draw left the California welterweight title in the mitts of Al "Bumble Bee" Long, who was defending his title against Russell Mitchell.

The bout was exciting, with Long fighting back well after being hurt by the veteran southpaw in the 10th round.

The scores went 114-113, Long, 117-110, Mitchell, and 114-114.
(4-22-88)

▶**LOS ANGELES**—Sports Arena—Former Olympic bantamweight silver medalist **Hector Lopez**, ranked No. 5 in the featherweight division by *The Ring*, knocked out Mexican Oscar Bejines in the ninth of a scheduled 10.

Bejines was the early aggressor and hurt Lopez with a right to the head in the sixth round. When stopped, Bejines led on all cards, 76-75 (twice) and 77-73. But a right by Lopez bloodied the nose of Bejines in Round Seven, and the Mexican-born Lopez, fighting out of Glendale, California, took over from there.

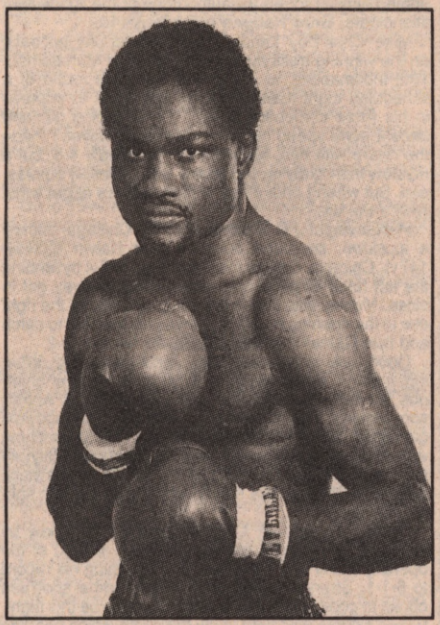
Lopez pounded Bejines in the eighth, dropping him late in the round. Lopez continued the pressure in the ninth, and Bejines was tagged by a right, dropping to all fours where he took the count from referee Chuck Hassett at 47 seconds of the frame.

Los Angeles welterweight John Montes won a unanimous, 10-round decision over Mexican Octavio Robles, taking scores of 98-89, 98-90 and 96-91. Montes was decked in the second, but came back to drop Robles in the next two sessions, bloodying his nose as well.
(5-7-88)

READ THE RING

▶**SAN DIEGO**—Nigeria's Young Dick Tiger, based in Hollywood, notched a unanimous 10-round decision win over Rigo Lopez, also of California, in a welterweight match.

Though losing a point for low blows, Tiger won 98-92, 97-93 and 96-93.
(4-20-88)



Welterweight Young Dick Tiger outpointed Rigo Lopez over 10 rounds in San Diego.

COLORADO

▶**PUEBLO**—Police Association Building—Joe Hernandez, 148, Pueblo, breezed to a six-round, unanimous decision over Robert "Charly" Chambers to improve his record to 5-2-1, not 8-1-1 as was previously reported.

A second six-rounder was canceled when foul weather forced a highway closure and the fighters could not arrive.

Pueblo's John Martino won handily over Denver's Danny Ross in a heavyweight four-rounder.

Matt Trejo, Odessa, decisioned Pueblo's Ricky Gomez in a four-round welterweight bout.

Locals Mike Estrada and Gama Acosta fought to a four-round lightweight draw.

Pueblo's John Vigil knocked out Eloy Lucero at 2:58 of the first in the lightweight opener.

Promoter: Quinn Promotions.
Referee: Pat Chaney.
Timekeeper: Eddie Quinn.
Attendance: 275 (est.).
(5-6-88)

ED WALSH

FLORIDA

▶**HIALEAH**—Milander Auditorium—Robert Daniels, 191, stopped Jack Johnson, 194, in the fourth round of a scheduled 12 for the state cruiserweight title.

Johnson, 14-6, was down in the third and in trouble again in the fourth when referee Eddie Eckert stopped the match, giving Daniels his 13th win against one loss.

Pete Wabuda, North Miami Beach, 210, stopped Puerto Rico's Amos Lisboa, 215, in just 1:31 of a scheduled six.

In a strange six, Santo Domingo's Francisco Tappia, 166, won the first three rounds, but was dropped in the fourth and fifth by Miami's Salim Muhammad, 160, who had to settle for a no decision when the referee apparently thought Tappia's corner had stopped the match, only to find that it hadn't!

Miami's Johnny Lockett, 147, ended a two-year retirement by stopping Nicaragua's Paco Jimenez, 150, in the third (2:35) of a scheduled six.

Mexican Jorge Romero, 132, knocked out Brooklyn's George Vera, 128, in the opening round of a scheduled six.

Santo Domingo's Carlos Montero, 160, won by TKO when Homestead's Alberto Rodriguez, 162, was not allowed out for the third of a scheduled four.

Florida's wild-punching Jaime Castellano, 123, won a majority, four-round verdict over Cuba, Miami's Tony Frontela, 128.

Promoter: Arena Promotions.
Physicians: Guerra, Denis & Berke.
Referees: Ed Eckert & Juan Arias.
Timekeepers: Bill Ouimette & Richard Graver.
Judges: Al Wilensky, John Rupert, Vivian Berman & Rick Bays.
(4-22-88)

▶**WINTER HAVEN**—Daryl Pickney, 121½, won by knockout in the 10th round of a scheduled 12-round main event against Amos Cowart, 125½.

Delfino Marin, 147, stopped Ian Ford, 149¾, in the fourth of a scheduled eight.

Three four-rounders ended fast.

Vince Hogan, 164½, knocked out Anthony Adkinson, 167½, in 1:41.

Timmy Lee, 124½, stopped Paul Mingo, 130½, at 2:24 of the second.

Jakey Winter, 185, stopped Roger Lubin, 184¼, in 1:34.

Promoter: Haven Sports Promotions.
Physicians: Griffith, Carey & Jiminez.
Referees: Brian Garry & Max Parker Jr.
Timekeepers: Billy Herold & Mark Skilbred.
Judges: Joe Thornton, Wilson Robinson, Brian Garry & Max Parker Jr.
(5-6-88)

ILLINOIS

▶**HARVEY**—Photon Arena—In boxing, it's rare when a rematch lives up to a memorable first meeting. And the first seven rounds of the second fight between **Alfonzo Ratliff** and **Craig Bodzianowski** were no exception.

Trailing on the cards of all three judges, Ratliff, a former WBC cruiserweight titleholder, staged a rally over the last three rounds to capture a 10-round, majority decision. Judge Bill Lerch called the bout 46-46, but Mike Glienna (46-45) and Al Tremari (47-44) gave the nod to Ratliff.

In front of 3,000 spectators and a national USA-TV cable audience, the television lights contributing to the sweltering temperatures inside the non-air conditioned venue, Ratliff improved his record to 24-7 as he added the Illinois heavyweight title to the cruiserweight title already in his possession.

Bodzianowski, who matched Ratliff's weight of 195, came out strong, seeking to avoid the first-round knockdown he suffered while losing a unanimous, 10-round decision to Ratliff in April, 1987. With Ratliff offering little resistance, Bodzianowski easily captured the first two rounds.

For the next five rounds, the boxers exchanged ineffective punches with neither gaining an advantage. Neglecting their left jabs, both threw wide, wild punches that, for the most part, went uncountered. The aggressor through much of the bout, Bodzianowski cornered Ratliff on a number of occasions, utilizing his left hook and right hand, but couldn't sustain his advantage. His legs shaky from the opening bell, Ratliff had no zip on his punches, but a left hook at the end of the eighth sent a stunned Bodzianowski back to his corner.

Sensing he had his man hurt, a rejuvenated Ratliff came out firing in the ninth and backed up Bodzianowski, landing with two good left hooks and a right uppercut. A pair of tired fighters touched gloves for the final round, and Ratliff landed a series of right hands that almost sent Bodzianowski to the canvas. Bodzianowski fought back bravely, but couldn't turn the tide in the 10th.

For both, the future is cloudy. The 32-year-old Ratliff was on wobbly legs from the start and his skills have taken a sharp downturn in the last year. Aside from picking up paychecks while getting pounded by prospects, Ratliff's career seems near its end. The 27-year-old Bodzianowski fell to 24-2, both losses coming to Ratliff, the only ranked fighter he's ever met. He either must rethink his championship goals or be content that his limited ability and unlimited courage have carried him as far as they will.

Illinois lightweight champion **"Lethal" Louie Lomeli,** 136, Melorse Park, figures he's got the best right hand in the 135-pound division, and you won't get an argument from Billy White, 134½, St. Louis.

Lomeli (21-0, 18 KOs) floored White midway through the opening round with a thunderous right hand. With a dazed look on his face, White got up and tasted more of the same as Lomeli worked both body and head, sending White down for the second time in the frame.

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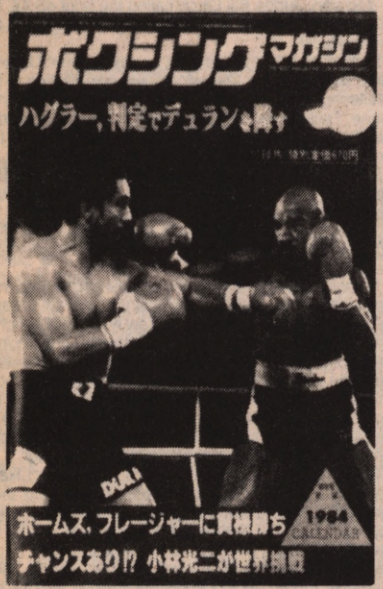

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The fight concluded after a fifth knockdown, a cut helping to convince White to call it quits at 2:20 of the third.

Anxious to return to action following the cancellation (due to illness) of his last scheduled bout in March, Lomeli stalked his overmatched foe, who was fighting for the first time in two years. White found his legs couldn't carry him out of the range of Lomeli's heavy artillery, and the winner dictated throughout as he primed himself for an assault on one of the lightweight titleholders, **Greg Haugen** being target No. 1.

Mike "Choir Boy" Landini, 157, Calumet City, got back on the winning track by stopping Maumin Muhammed, 165, Indianapolis, at the end of the sixth round of a scheduled eight. Landini (26-3) has failed to impress in his three comeback fights. The snapping jab and decent hand speed he once possessed haven't made the return with him. Muhammed, reportedly 4-5, but a mystery man to my record books, was definitely outclassed. But when Landini has to fight novices to get wins, what's the use?

Welterweight J.C. Camell Jr., 149, Chicago, scored a lopsided, six-round decision over Kelvin Mulvey, 147½, Chicago, Camell moving his log to 5-4 by landing the left hook all night and never letting Mulvey get in close. Mulvey was cut on the scalp and above the right eye in the opening round, but it was his inability to catch and hurt Camell that cost him as he fell to 6-2-2.

Good-looking prospect Marty Jakubowski, 138, Whiting, Indiana, recorded his ninth straight win, a unanimous, six-round decision over Jerry Bilyeau, 138, Anderson, Indiana. The undefeated, 18-year-old Jakubowski combined good hand speed and combination punching with some decent power in handing the rugged Bilyeau his first defeat in a 4-1-1 record. A number of fans stuck around for this Indiana rivalry, which was the last fight on the card.

Curtis Strong, 132, Chicago, opened the show by stopping Ft. Wayne's Ken Brown, 133, at 2:40 of the opening round of a scheduled six. In upping his record to 5-1-1, Strong needed only to land some short left hooks to convince Brown it wasnt going to be this night. Brown's purse was held up by the commission pending investigation.

Torrance Martin, 147, Chicago, weathered two first-round knockdowns by Tommy Jackson, 146½, St. Louis, and rallied to stop Jackson at 2:58 of Round Three with a nice right hand. Martin is 3-1, Jackson, 1-1.

Promoter: Cedric Kushner.
Matchmaker: Jack Cowen.
Referees: Tim Adams, Stan Berg & Nate Morgan.
(5-12-88)

JEFF CARLSON

MASSACHUSETTS

▶**BOSTON**—Teacher's Union Hall—"Howard Davis is everything I'd heard about," said Ron Johnson through the swollen face of a loser.

In fact, the first appearance in Beantown in 15 years by **Howard Davis Jr.** brought glowing reviews from all quarters. Davis, plagued by the fact that he is the only Gold Medalist from the 1976 Olympics yet to win a professional title, has vowed that if he doesn't get another chance at a championship within the next year he'll call it a career.

In the interest of keeping busy, and as a favor to local promoter Doug Pendarvis, Davis and manager Mike Jones brought their title pursuit to Boston for pocket change. Davis had last appeared here in 1973 as an unheralded contestant in the regional AAU tourney who eventually went on to win the national title.

Those glory days might be long gone, but Davis still has boxing skills in abundance, and his masterful exhibition left Johnson thoroughly frustrated and beaten after eight rounds. Johnson, 145, came from Oklahoma City billed as "the Fighting Green Beret," and wore trunks displaying his nickname of "Animal," an apt summary of his style. More to the point, Jones wasn't about to risk Davis' world-class stature in an eight-rounder, and Johnson's record was a purported 18-10-2. *The Boston Herald's* George Kimball documented just 17 wins against 13 losses, however.

In any event, Johnson kept charging forward all evening long, with roundhouse swings that threatened to poleax anyone they connected with. Johnson's unshakeable determination made this an exciting fight for the whole distance, even if Davis, 144, won every stanza.

The same rapier left jab showcased in the Montreal Olympics was the main Davis weapon, and his footwork was so quick and effective that Johnson often came closer to hitting referee Matt Mullaney. Davis baffled his rugged foe by showing him all sorts of odd angles, and then peppered him with lightning combinations. Occasionally, Davis would wait for Johnson's onslaught, then rip him apart inside with precise counterpunching. Johnson's best rounds were the second and third, when he succeeded to a degree in roughing Davis up in close, but Davis eluded most of the blows and made "the Animal" pay dearly.

After Round Five Jones told reporters Davis had suffered an injury, possibly a break, to his right hand. While he didn't seem to favor it after that, it obviously had no steam. The seventh round was Davis' best, an uninterrupted fusillade that scarcely gave Johnson time to breathe, and it went down on our scorecard as a 10-8 tally. Johnson regrouped a bit in the final round, roaring and growling as he made a last-ditch attack, to no avail.

Mullaney scored it 80-72, while judge Pat Ruane saw it as 79-73 and Bob McCoy agreed with *The Ring's* card of 80-71, pushing Davis to 31-4-1.

"It's hard to crack an egg when that egg is determined not to be cracked," Davis said later, soaking his hand in an ice-bucket. A swelling just in front of his wrist, in line with his ring finger, attested to the unexpected cost of this victory. "He made up for his lack of skills with determination, and he never, never gave up."

"I thought I had him worn out a couple times," Johnson said from across the hall, "But he's in damned tremendous shape." Davis and Jones are aiming for a top contender next, with Ras-I Bramble and Vinny Pazienza two prominent names tossed around.

A six-round preliminary saw Springfield's Carlos Vergara, 127, improve to 7-1 with a thrashing of Bridgeport's Tony Williams, 128. Williams put out a torrid first frame, ran totally out of gas, and from there on endured a lengthy beating that came within a hairsbreadth of giving Vergara three straight 10-8 rounds in frames three through five. Williams' bravery in lasting the route was obvious, but a smarter course would've been a midway stoppage.

Likewise, Allan Hunt, 175, Wallingford, Ct., made his debut in Hawaiian swim trunks and took a sound whipping from Raynham's Parmeson Iffel, 182, in Round One. Hunt's corner somehow sent him out for Round Two, and after an inhuman barrage he succumbed at 2:49.

Two other fours were very competitive and went the distance. Southpaw Mike Culbert, 149, Holbrook, had too much reach and skill for Chris Royal, 150, Queens, N.Y., and won every frame for his second pro win, after a glittering amateur career.

Heavyweight Manny Contreras, 200, Coventry, R.I., is a raw brawler but he kept constant pressure on trialhorse Jimmy Harrison, 200, Malden, for another decision win that must've been a shutout.

The announced gate was 326, but there must have been loads of comps since the crowd looked more like 500. Robbie Sims, Sean Mannion, Edwin Curet, Stingray Shorts and N.E. Patriot Roland James were some of the local athletic luminaries who turned out to see Davis.

Promoter: Doug Pendarvis.
Timekeeper: Lee Meador.
Referees: Matt Mullaney & Herb Weissblum.
Physician: Francis Wixted.
Judges: Bob McCoy & Pat Ruane.
(4-28-88)

JAY N. MILLER

MICHIGAN

▶**STERLING HEIGHTS**—Premier Center—Cool spring rain couldn't dampen the spirit of the suburban crowd that had to forego the Red Wings' clinching of the Adams Division from the St. Louis Blues to enjoy this spirited card.

Idelfonza Bernal of Los Angeles came a long way to go just 2:21 of the second stanza of his scheduled 10 with WBC super bantamweight Continental Americas champion and gold medalist **Steve "Bluesman" McCrory.**

What can you say when McCrory is in form? He has a jab, power, defense, ring generalship and heart, but most of all he is a hungry fighter.

Stablemate and former Hoosier Tom "Boom Boom" Johnson would not be outdone as he followed "The Bluesman" with a featherweight KO victory against Ernesto Moto at 2:59 of the second round. Johnson remained perfect at 11-0, with Moto a reported 9-8.

Renaldo "Little Red" Carter made it a sweep, raising his record to 17-0 with a unanimous, 10-round decision over ready Jeff Hanna, Terre Haute, Indiana.

Hanna, a reported 15-14-2, went down in the sixth, was cut thrice and had his nose broken, but didn't quit.

Judges Frank Garza and Tom Paruszkiewicz each scored 100-89, with Herb Ellison calling it 98-91.

Dwayne "007" Peterson opened against Jorge Rivera of San Diego, winning the welterweight eight-rounder by unanimous decision to improve his record to 7-1 as Rivera dropped to 9-2.

Vince "Blue Thunder" Hopper, 13-3-2 light heavyweight, dropped his eight-rounder to Louisville's Mike Peak, 6-2-2, by split decision. Ellison saw it 78-76 for Hopper, but Peak, who landed with looping lead rights followed by hooks, got the nod from Garza (77-75) and Paruszkiewicz (79-75).

Westland, Michigan lightweight prospect Jeff "Sweet Ice" Styers sparkled against a game Aaron Jones, who brought a 1-4 record from Louisville, winning a unanimous, four-round decision by identical 40-36 scores. Styers, displaying tactical mobility and a strong measure of aggression, is 3-0.

Another bright light on Detroit's fistic horizon is featherweight Boyd Gardner Jr., who made his mark 2-0 with three scores of 40-36 against Terre Haute's Randy Reedy, who fell to 4-18-1 after their four-rounder.

Promoter: ABC Promotions.
Matchmaker: Duke Durden.
Timekeepers: William Hunter & William Hunter Jr.
Judges: Paruszkiewicz, Ellison & Garza.
Physicians: Saul Shapiro & Don Kaplan.
Referees: Joe Sowerby & Jim Quigley.

▶**DETROIT**—Cobo Arena—The statue of **Joe Louis** was wrapped in a cocoon of heavy plastic to protect it from construction work going on around it outside Cobo Arena. Perhaps it was better that Louis' eyes were covered as the string was played out this night.

In the main draw of a series of mismatches, **Stanley Longstreet** kept his record perfect at 14-0 with a resounding thumping of former IBF lightweight titleholder **Charlie "Choo Choo" Brown.** Brown displayed more heart than sense as he chose to stand in front of Longstreet, who beat out a tatoo on Brown's face, proceeding to chop, dice and slice him, finally downing him and stopping him at 2:49 of Round Three. The obviously slowed Brown fell to 38-9-2.

Warren, Michigan's middleweight **Phillip Morefield** got his 20th win as referee Sam Williams wisely stopped the beating Morefield was administering to L.C. Robinson of St. Louis in just 2:59. Robinson, who fell to 11-5, had been down once, Morefield's left hook doing the major damage.

Right from the opening bell of the first featherweight four-rounder the stage was set for the evening as Scott DePew of Defiance, Ohio, went to 2-0, stopping badly outclassed Barley Woodfolk in just 1:20. Woodfolk fell to 0-2.

Detroit lightweight Timmy Young belied his "Baby Boy" nom-de-guerre by taking a split decision in his four-rounder over Chris Steward of Shelby, North Carolina, who dropped to 1-1 as Young improved to 4-1.

Windsor native and Kronkster Todd Nadon took his middleweight southpaw attack to Myron "Nighttrain" Gasper and won by KO at 2:59 of the first to improve to 2-1. The "Nighttrain" steamed away 1-3, with the blessings of the boxing gods, who prevented him from being hospitalized by Nadon's beating.

Brett "The Maverick" Zywerwinski, Alcott, Indiana, was not as lucky as his 1-2 record was pitted against hot light heavyweight prospect Mike Moorer, who stands 3-0. This had all the earmarks of a tragedy waiting to happen, and it didn't take long as southpaw Moorer took only 2:12 to drop the hapless Maverick twice before two quick lefts smashed Zywerwinski's nose and cut his left eye. A following flurry left Zywerwinski unconcious and he was taken on a stretcher to Detroit's Receiving Hospital for follow-up care. Moorer delayed an interview by a TV vulture type, cameraman hovering over the prone, battered Zywerwinski, to express his concern and regret over his opponent's injuries.

Ann Arbor middleweight hopeful Mike Johnson donned the Kronk mantle and took a TKO win at 2:15 of the eighth stanza against Billy Parks of Denver. "The Stinger" Johnson went to 14-1-1 by using effective and well-placed flurries and rights off the jab. Parks fell to a reported 30-6.

Promoter: Kronk/Lite Beer/Little Caesar's.
Matchmaker: Tommy Vacca.
Referees: Sam Williams & Bob Fisher.
Judges: Nafeeya Jami, Chip Acey & Randy Ericson.
Physicians: Ralph Sachs & Jim Clary.
Timekeepers: Joe Kollins & Ken Pace.
(4-29-88)

TOM PARUSZKIEWICZ

MINNESOTA

▶**ST. PAUL**—Prom Expo Center—St. Paul heavyweight **Rick "Rocky" Sekorski** had little trouble with inexperienced and out-of-shape Jeff May of Milwaukee as Sekorski put away May in the second round.

May offered little opposition and a wide Sekorski left hook dropped May in the first round. Sekorski went right after May in the second round, pounding away at May's ample tummy until the uneven contest was halted. The win, in Sekorski's first fight since being wasted by **George Foreman**, raised Sekorski's record to 21-8.

Walter "Raheem Muhammad" Cowans, Milwaukee middleweight, surprised everyone by taking a five-round decision over Scott Papasadora of Minneapolis.

Willie Mayberry of Duluth knocked out inept Bernard Selders in the first round of a light heavyweight bout.

St. Paul middleweight Lamont Rollins stopped Demitrius Jackson of Milwaukee in the third round.

Mario Rivera of Minneapolis stopped Eddie Meeks of Milwaukee in the fourth round of a featherweight contest.
(5-9-88)

GEORGE D. BLAIR

MISSOURI

▶**SPRINGFIELD**—Hitchin' Post Lounge—The main event, as reported in last month's issue, saw **Harold Brazier** knock out Billy Moore in two rounds.

The undercard of that battle featured a Mid-American junior lightweight title fight that produced 17 knockdowns before Mark Brannon, 130, South Bend, Indiana, stopped Roger Blake, 130, Charleston, West Virginia, in the 12th and final round. Brannon, himself a knockdown victim 10 times, was finally able to stop Blake, ironically enough, on the three-knockdown rule!

Tim Anderson, 210, Springfield, knocked out Joplin's Roger Key, 222, in the ninth round.

Tim Morrison, 223, Jay, Oklahoma, won a 10-round decision over Frank Lux, 205, Davenport, Iowa.

Tim Tomashek, 195, Green Bay, Wisconsin, knocked out Earl Riddell, 205, Miami, Oklahoma, in the fifth.

Promoter: Rick Parker.
(4-12-88)

LT. JAMES E. HUTTON

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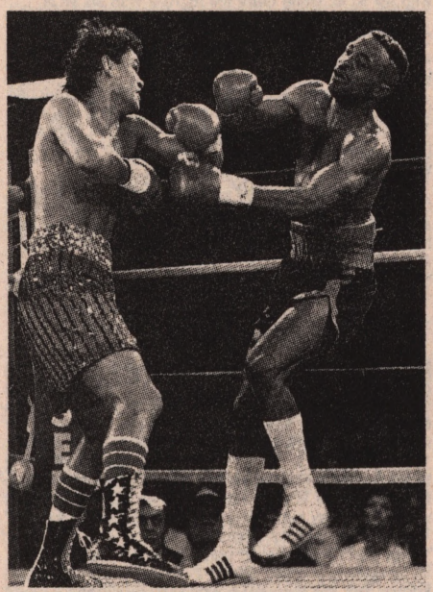

Undefeated knockout artist Engels Pedroza (left) staggers mismatched Sammy Young en route to a second-round knockout in Las Vegas.

▶**LAS VEGAS**—Showboat—Pounds notwithstanding, **Engels Pedroza** almost makes **Mike Tyson** look like an amateur when it comes to scoring early knockouts.

The 21-year-old Pedroza, a product of Caracas, Venezuela now fighting out of Long Beach, California, was booked for a quick return by matchmaker Mel Greb after a no-sweat knockout in his previous appearance last April. Pedroza's connections were probably looking ahead to better things even before the baby-faced belter literally stiffened Sammy Young out of Troy, New York, in the second round of what was laughingly billed as the 10-round main event.

Laughingly is the correct appraisal, considering Young made his Vegas debut with a 15-29-1 record. FNN/SCORE cable network, making its first local appearance, was put on its mettle in justifying this matchup.

Since turning pro in October, 1986, Pedroza has stopped 18 straight opponents in a total of less than 24 rounds, which means his average bout lasts 1.3 rounds. Tyson turned pro in March, 1985, and on the road to his three heavyweight titles he needed 34 rounds to erase his first 18 nobodies, an average duration of 1.8 rounds-per-fight.

Jimmy Montoya, who trains and co-manages Pedroza with attorney Marc Risman, contends, "Our protege still has things to learn despite being rated No. 6 by the World Boxing Association and No. 7 by the International Boxing Federation."

More than 2,000 jammed into the Sports Pavilion to see Pedroza arrive as a study in sequined artistry — blue and gold mini-robe and red, blue and gold trunks with shoes to match. If there had been a power outrage, the flashy Latin would have illuminated the house.

Young, 143, immediately got on his horse as Pedroza pressed the attack at the first bell, landing two rights and a left. Young's cornermen implored him to box, but early in the second round the import's flat-footed stance indicated the punishment Pedroza had inflicted. The curly headed clouter, 142½, drove home two left hooks, and Young was coming out of his corner when Pedroza was on target with a vicious left hook that almost lifted the New Yorker off his feet.

Young fell flat on his back, striking his head on the canvas. Referee Joey Curtis looked down at the stunned fighter and didn't bother to count, the end coming 51 seconds into the round.

Bob Miller, who manages Young, claimed this was the first time his fighter had been knocked out.

"Sammy's been stopped before, on cuts, or by fatigue in the late rounds, but he's never, ever been kayoed flat on his back before, said Miller. "No question about it, Pedroza can bang."

Montoya declared Pedroza was "too anxious in the first round. I had to slow him down in the second round because the other guy had lots of fights and some ring savvy. I've had lots of fighters in my life, but never anybody as good as Pedroza, not even **Hector Camacho.** Engels is faster, better disciplined, and hits harder than Camacho."

Montoya took Camacho to the WBC lightweight title, which he won by decision over **Jose Luis Ramirez** in Las Vegas in August, 1985. But several disputes sent them separate ways.

"We might get Pedroza on the undercard this summer at Lake Tahoe when **Evander Holyfield** makes his heavyweight debut," said Montoya. "But we'd be ready for Camacho right now if he was willing to fight. I'm not willing to rush this kid, but there's no doubt in my mind Camacho wouldn't last more than three rounds."

In the co-main event, **Martin Quiroz** finally got it all together, durability and power, to send Detroit's Anthony "Baby" Jones on a disappointing ride home, the victim of a four-round TKO. Jones, weighing 141 in his fourth local appearance of a 15-0-1, seven KOs ledger, was moving effectively and scoring with jabs and in-close combinations, while Quiroz, 141, was trying to move inside with body shots. Suddenly, the San Jose, California fighter drove Jones into the ropes with a booming right. Another salvo, and Jones slipped to the canvas, managing to rise on referee Joey Curtis' eight-count.

Moving quickly, Quiroz was accurate with two left-right combinations to the head with Jones hanging all over him. Quiroz hammered Jones to the other side of the ring where he took six unanswered shots before sagging to the canvas.

Curtis called it at 1:53 as Quiroz improved his record to 32-15-4 with 23 KOs.

Harpel Tahan, 135, Las Vegas, moved to 12-0 in winning a unanimous, six-round decision over Isidro Treyano, 137, Mercedes, Texas. Treyano is 6-5.

Terje Sveen, 175, Las Vegas, posted his fifth straight win with a unanimous decision over Steve Damon, 175½, Phoenix, Damon dipping to 5-2-1 with three KOs.

Alan Lowery, 132, Las Vegas, outbrawled Roberto Cantu, 131, Las Vegas, for a unanimous, six-round decision. Lowery is 5-2-2 with two KOs, Cantu is 9-9-3 with four KOs.

Jeff Mayweather, 132, Las Vegas, made his pro debut

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

with a four-round decision over Phoenix's Eddie Doran, 132½.
(4-23-88)

JACK WELSH

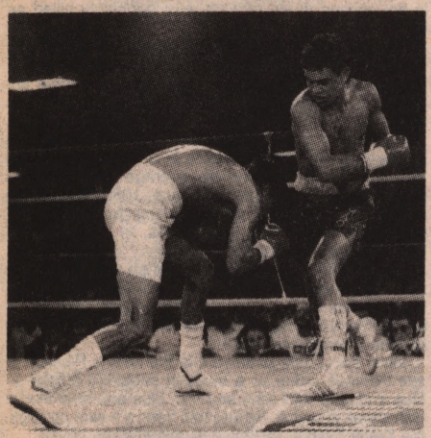

PHOTO BY SERGIO LALLI

Engels Pedroza (right) missed with this bomb, but landed enough leather to stop rugged Colombian Felipe Angulo in Round Five to raise his pro log to 19-0, all via knockout.

▶**LAS VEGAS**—Showboat Hotel/Casino—It took **Engels Pedroza** a little longer than usual, but the public loved it.

The crowd of 2,000 was roaring from the opening bell as the undefeated, 21-year-old Pedroza was forced to go longer than ever before in raising his record to 19-0, all by knockout. Colombian native Felipe Angulo proved rugged, but succumbed in the fifth of the scheduled 10-round main event.

The elongated Angulo, 138, gave almost as good as he got before submitting to Pedroza's vicious body punches at 1:47. He did well, considering he was the third scheduled opponent for Pedroza. First, the 24-year-old replaced Atlanta's David Taylor (reportedly 15-8-2 with six KOs, but possibly as bad as 6-7-2 with 0 knockouts) when it was discovered Taylor was on medical suspension in New York and Michigan. He had replaced Floyd Peavy, who was either injured in training or found to have been knocked out in all three of his fights last year.

The NSAC has tightened its guidelines on approving opponents since a flagrant mismatch April 23 when Pedroza shelled Sammy Young of Troy, New York, in two rounds at the Showboat.

Trainer Jimmy Montoya was pleased with Pedroza's two-handed assault on a rival who had never been down in building a 23-3-1 record with 18 KOs through South America.

"People in Vegas didn't know it, but Engels was sick," said Montoya. "He took some honey twice in the afternoon and it left him with diarrhea. Sure, he got hit a few times. But that's all part of the business of learning. I knew we were in tough because I had seen Angulo before in Miami. Pedroza needs more rounds every time he goes out.

"Engels was a little tight in the first round," added Montoya. "He was lunging with his punches and he missed a lot coming over and digging with uppercuts. But once he settled down and started firing those hooks to the body, I knew it was just a matter of time."

Pedroza, who ran his career total to 29 rounds, wasn't dismayed Angulo was able to back him up in the third round with accurate counters off the ropes.

"Angulo's right elbow caught me over the left eye, but there was no time he ever hurt me," said Pedroza. "This guy was strong and when I got a little tired in the fifth round, my stomach was rumbling. But I said, 'Bleep the honey' and started pouring on the body shots. I bruised the knuckle on the top of my left hand, but it wasn't serious."

Pedroza created the beginning of the end with a long, overhand right that sent Angulo back into the ropes. The native of Caracas, Venezuela, then dug both hands to the body and a weary Angulo went down on his left knee where he was counted out by referee Richard Steele. It was later revealed Angulo had suffered a compound fracture of the right thumb, the bone breaking through the skin.

Akeem Anifowoshe, 115, Las Vegas, used a steady jab to score a unanimous, eight-round decision over Ronny Gary, 115, Phoenix. Anifowoshe moved to 9-0 with six KOs, while Gary fell to 10-2 with six KOs.

Eric Hernandez, 148, Phoenix, dropped Las Vegas' Otis Pimpleton, 147, twice before posting a TKO at 1:16 of the first. Hernandez is 7-0 with five KOs, while Pimpleton skidded to 4-3-1 with one KO.

Joe Rincones, 120, Long Beach, California, stretched Luciano Lopez, 121, Phoenix, twice before posting a TKO at 1:16 of the first round in a slated six. Rincones has notched six straight KOs, while Lopez fell to 4-3-1 with one KO.

Ray Thompson, 160½, Las Vegas, was roundly booed after scoring a unanimous, six-round verdict over Andre Anderson, 157, Phoenix. Thompson is 4-0 with two KOs. Anderson dropped to 4-3-1 with one KO.
(5-21-88)

JACK WELSH

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NEW JERSEY

▶**ATLANTIC CITY**—Sands Hotel Casino—The sellout crowd that came to see the return of "The Beast" got more of a bully, and was not amused. Not that **John Mugabi**, 163, Kampala/Tampa, was really to blame for his embarrassingly easy TKO of hapless Knox Brown, 158, Memphis. In fact, Mugabi was doubtless being truthful when he declared, "I probably could have taken him out in the first round, but I intentionally let up. I wanted to carry him a little bit for the audience's sake." The gesture was not appreciated.

Not that Knox was an unqualified adversary, either. In amassing a solid 30-13-2 record against lesser-known, but still standup opposition, he'd been kayoed no more often than Mugabi. "The Beast" has yet to hear a final bell, win or lose, in a 27-2 career. But Brown's typical club style, bravely wade in and exchange to grind the foe down, while lacking notable power, left him without answer to the African's awesome artillery. Mugabi had a big first, slumbered in the second, then stowed the scheduled 10 away at 1:04 of the third. Knox was ruthlessly clubbed down once, then hammered on the ropes until chief physician Frank Doggett ascended the apron. Brown weakly protested Joe Cortez' stoppage as fans unjustly booed and jeered the victor. "In my opinion, they stopped it too quick," the loser alibied. "But I can't really blame the referee. The man had 27 knockouts . . . and because of that, I think referees might think his punches are harder than they really are."

If they were unhappy with the main event, justifiably or otherwise, fans had grounds for nothing but praise for the co-feature 10. Former IBF jr. welter titlist **Gary Hinton**, 150½, Phila., launched his comeback with a sizzler over Frank Montgomery, same weight and venue. The southpaw ex-champ showed little rust, jumping right into a fast-paced and disciplined battle of tactics. Distance was everything as the classic, straight-up Montgomery did well when he could keep the unorthodox Hinton on the end of his long reach, but was jolted by shorter punches whenever Gary could gain an extra step. Hinton began to squeak ahead in the fourth and appeared to have everything under control when an accidental clash of heads had a distraught Montgomery noticeably favoring his left eye in the sixth. But the one-time prospect, though he's failed to break into the "big time," certainly hasn't given up trying. Frank rallied gamely in the next two, then jolted Gary with two right uppercuts to start the ninth. Hinton responded with a rush for the finish line that dazzled Montgomery, and put away the unanimous win. Thomas Kaczmarek scored 97-94, Frank Brunette 96-94 and Eva Shain 98-92, to make Gary 26-4-2 and Frank 13-5. Ref, Vinnie Rainone.

Oscar Ponce, 141¾, Argentina via Balto., swarmed Don Cioffi, 142, Hopatcong, NJ, to beat him into submission after two of a scheduled six. Don was floored once officially in the first and visited the canvas three more times without being called. The doctor stopped it in Cioffi's corner. The crowd-pleasing winner went to 4-0, while Cioffi fell to 4-5. Ref, Rainone.

Willie "The Little Worm" Monroe, 162, Ithaca, more resembled a "Little Beast" on his return with a ruthless battering of John Keys, 164¼, Balto., in a scheduled six. Keys was dropped twice before Rainone halted it at 2:08 of the first. Willie rose to 7-1.

And a disgraceful event followed the walkout four in which Andre Hazelwood, 142¼, Balto., won a majority verdict from Bruce D'Agostino, 138, S. Phila. The debuting D'Agostino suffered major stage fright and barely managed a punch, while the intimidated Hazelwood at least went through the motions in a dreadful bore. But the touted D'Agostino's unruly fans weren't prepared to accept defeat and inappropriately provided the action that had been missing from the ring. To his credit, the fighter issued an apology for the ugly disturbance. Hazelwood went to 2-1. Ref, Cortez.

Promoters: Peltz Boxing & Mickey Duff.
Matchmakers: Johnny Bos & J. Russell Peltz.
Attendance: 750.
TV: USA Network.
Timekeeper: Lindsey Tucker.
Announcer: Ed Derian.
(5-5-88)

J.R. JOWETT

▶**CAMDEN**—The Showplace—Say goodbye to **Larry "The Big Man" Alexander**, and say hello to **Donovan "Razor" Ruddock**. Hey, maybe Timmy Witherspoon knew what he was doing when he pulled out of TV bouts with Ruddock not once (January), but twice (April).

Donovan, 226, Toronto, Canada, by way of Jamaica, besides being a rather imposing figure of a young (22) man, could well be the most plausible 1989 threat to the Tyson-Spinks winner.

Okay, so Larry wasn't exactly svelte, but he sure was a heavyweight at 6'4", 256 lbs., and he did come out looking to take command, but short was his lead. After surveying his adversary for most of Round One, the well-endowed Ruddock's first significant punch was a stunningly quick left hook that put his New York City based foe back on his heels and backed into a neutral corner. Larry was ready to go if it had not been for the bell.

Angelo Dundee, Larry's chief second, checked his man as thoroughly as time would allow and felt Alexander was coherent enough to continue. We all make mistakes, Angie baby. This time, Razor stalked his man, and even without being noticeably tagged Larry could not regroup.

The end came swiftly and smartly as Razor, after catching Larry's arm with a right uppercut, quickly stepped over to the left and unleashed the coup de grace hook that sent Alexander to the canvas with such authority that the back of his head crashed against the floor. Dundee and the doctors were in the ring in a flash to assist Larry.

Referee Frank Cappuccino correctly ruled it a KO win for Ruddock—with no count necessary—at the 2:08 mark of Round Two in this scheduled 10-rounder.

After, Ruddock had a good reason as to why he didn't

charge his wounded foe with the start of Round Two.

"It doesn't do me any good to hit gloves," he said. "I'm a sharpshooter, and I was looking for a spot to hit."

Added Dundee, "Nobody's ever done that to Alexander before. I mean the guy just took him apart."

With the convincing win, Ruddock raised his record to 18-1-1 with 11 KOs, while Larry fell to 32-12-2, 24 KOs.

The undercard had four bouts and the only one to last the scheduled four-round distance was the one in which Ray Ruiz, 153, Passaic, NJ, took a unanimous decision over Manuel Opher, 156, Philadelphia. Opher, dropped smartly by a chopping right in the opening stanza, rallied in Round Two and made a fight of it from then on in. But the knockdown apparently cost him the fight. Scores: John Riley and Frank Brunette both at 38-37, while Milo Savage had it 39-37. Ruiz is 2-1, Opher, 4-5. Ref; Rudy Battle.

Six-foot Darryl Holly, 142, Brigantine, NJ via Orlando, went to 2-0 as a pro when he won by TKO over Harry Reyes, 145¼, Jersey City, at 2:32 of the fourth. Darryl had Reyes all to himself, finally putting him down in the fourth, with referee Cappuccino halting it right after that. Reyes is listed at 3-5, two by KO.

Stephan Johnson, 148¼, Brooklyn, looked impressive in raising his mark to 5-1 when he took apart Marco James, 150, Newark, who fell to 0-1-1. Johnson landed some booming rights that backed James to his own corner where he put up little resistance. Ref Cappuccino had little choice but to halt the bout and award Johnson the TKO win at 2:12 of the first.

In the walkout bout, Merqui Sosa, 163, Brooklyn, pole-axed Caesar Leonardo, 163, Jersey City, with one left hook and won by KO at 1:16 of Round Two. Ref; Battle. Sosa is 4-0; Leonardo, 2-1.

Timekeeper: Art Spell.
Promoter: 3-M Promotions (Murad Muhammad).
Matchmaker: Al Certo.
Announcer: Ed Derian.
Attendance: 700 (est.).
Ticket Prices: All priced at $30, which included mediocre finger foods.
(4-26-88)

▶**ATLANTIC CITY**—Resorts International—Prohibitive favorites got a little more than they bargained for in co-feature bouts, but still came away with unanimous decisions in their respective 10-rounders.

John Wesley Meekins, 144, NYC, a prospect on a treadmill, had his sharp-shooter style negated by a slick, but apprehensive Mike "Machine Gun" Mungin, 145, Paulsboro, NJ. The stocky Mungin never gave John any real target, sliding around and around, in and out. He paid a price, however, by having to concentrate his energies predominantly on movement rather than punch, thus giving too much time away to the stalking, but relatively ineffective Meekins, who was made to look commonplace.

In the middle rounds, Mike would start each with a bothersome flurry, then fall back and hope to frustrate the overly nonchalant Meekins. He didn't quite pull it off. Mungin, who hadn't boxed in over three years and had never gone past eight, took this bout on just one-day notice. At least he didn't embarrass himself.

Scores: Tom Kaczmarek, 98-93; Frank Cairo, 98-92; Milo Savage, 99-92. *The Ring* card read 98-94 for Meekins. Ref; Tony Orlando. Meekins is 18-1-2, 13 KOs, while Mike is 17-2, 13 KOs.

Micky Ward, 138, Lowell, Ma., got himself a workout and then some when he tangled with rugged David Silva, 143, NYC via Venezuela. Much of the better action took place on the inside in the early rounds where Silva had his few bright moments. But not in the third round, according to referee Joe O'Neil. Baffling the crowd, and after unwarranted warnings, he deducted two points from Silva for low blows.

After that encounter, rather than just lay inside with Silva, Ward alternated his approach and built a clear lead behind quickness and a stinging left hook to the body. This quickness and overall skill advantage was too much for the one-way Silva.

Scores: Savage, 97-94, Kaczmarek, 97-92, and Cairo, 99-90. *The Ring* had it 97-94; we did not deduct the two points for reputed low blows. Silva now falls to a reported 13-8, three KOs, while Ward goes to 17-1, 11 KOs.

Switch-hitting Derrick Rolon, 148, Elizabeth, NJ, shaking off a cut left eyelid received in the third round, continued his unbeaten (9-0, six KOs) ways with yet another hell bent for leather outing in stamping his will on Paul "Stingray" Shorts, 148, E. Providence, RI, (9-1, three KOs), as he took a TKO win at 2:12 of the seventh, scheduled for eight.

Rolan's work rate is phenomenal, and his tenacity makes it doubly unenjoyable to share the ring with him. The actual ending occurred when, in a rapid exchange, Shorts missed with a sweeping right and spilled to the canvas, dislocating his right shoulder from the forceful follow-through of his own punch. O'Neil called in the doctors, who stopped the bout after examining Shorts.

Brinatti Maquillon, 163, NYC via Colombia, won his maiden bout by a majority call in four over Ray Ruiz, 157, Passaic, NJ. Maquillon suffered a questionable knockdown in Round One, but a passive Ruiz never seemed interested in pressing the issue until his cornermen really got on his case for the final round. Scores: Cairo, 38-38, Savage, 39-36, and Kaczmarek, 39-38. Ref; Orlando. Ruiz is 2-2.

Timekeeper: Lindsey Tucker.
Promoter: Top Rank.
Television: ESPN.
(5-19-88)

JACK OBERMAYER

▶**ATLANTIC CITY**—Resorts International—The confidence shone through for **Robert "Bam Bam" Hines**, 153, Phila., Pa. 22-1-1, one NC, 15 KOs, as he successfully retained his USBA junior middleweight title against the backpedalling Steve "Lightning" Little, 154, Reading, Pa., 14-7-1, four KOs. Although Little was in great shape, staying on his toes throughout the scheduled 12 rounds, his running style was the wrong choice when challenging for the championship, and he lost a unanimous decision.

The first couple rounds saw the southpaw Hines throwing stinging jabs as both circled the ring with Hines in constant pursuit. The evasive Little, a converted southpaw, found himself switching back and forth throughout the bout.

Little finally came through with some offense in the fifth round, landing a hard straight right, and again in the seventh with a strong combination. Each time, though, he was unable to follow up with anything. For the most part, Little spent the night circling backwards around the ring while looking for that something that never came. Hines, meanwhile, became more frustrated not being able to plant his feet and cut off the ring.

"I tried to cut off the ring," said Hines. "He came out too lightly with the championship on the line, but I knew he was a boxer and I didn't want to be careless."

When asked why all the backward movement instead of the hard punching that he said he needed to win the fight, Little responded, "It was hard to get comfortable. I was trying to set everything up. I was trying to set up the counter uppercut, but couldn't. Hines does have a good right hand. His wisdom showed on the inside. His style was hard for me to beat."

All three judges had the match for Hines, with Al DeVito and Rich Strange each scoring 117-112 and John Poturaj seeing it 118-110. *The Ring* had it 117-113, with the eighth round even. Ref: Rudy Battle.

This was the first title defense for Hines, who stopped Detroit's Tony Montgomery in the 10th round to win the title Oct. 23. A shot at Matthew Hilton's IBF title seems to be what's in store next for Hines.

"I'm ready for him," said Hines. "I know I can outbox him and outslug him, but I am not going to brawl with him."

An interesting sidenote was that Little postponed his wedding day set in April for this opportunity to fight for the championship.

Joe "Smoke" Summers, 150, Salem, NJ, 8-3, four KOs, won a split decision against "KO" Kevin Pompey, 151¾, Troy, NY, 8-2, five KOs. The eight-round affair provided a non-stop barrage of leather throwing. While Pompey had more sting to his punches, Summers was throwing a lot more and was more active. While a lot of ringside observers felt that Pompey should have won, this writer agreed with the decision.

Judges Al DeVito and Rich Strange each had it 77-76 Summers, while Judge John Poturaj saw it 78-74 Pompey. Ref: Joe Cortez.

In other action, David Franco, 136, Plainfield, NJ, 4-2, two KOs, lost a six-round split decision to Lenny "Bang Bang" Bainbridge, 136, Reading, Pa., 6-1, three KOs. Scoring: Strange and Poturaj, 59-56 each, Bainbridge, and Al DeVito 58-56 Franco. Ref: Battle.

A pair of heavyweight bouts rounded out the evening, with both matches going the scheduled four.

Kevin Bucceroni, 206, Vineland, NJ, raised his record to 5-2, three KOs, by winning a unanimous decision over Steve Felton, 204, Jersey City, NJ, making his pro debut. Ref: Cortez.

Sammy Speach, 215½, Phila., Pa., improved his record to 2-0, one KO, earning a unanimous decision over Mike Robinson, 2-1, two KOs, Troy, NY, in a well-fought, very competitive match. Ref: Battle.

Promoter: HBA Inc.
Matchmaker: Ron Katz.
Timekeeper: Lindsey Tucker.
Television: USA.
(4-21-88)

FRED BLUMSTEIN

NEW YORK

▶**NEW YORK CITY**—Felt Forum—**Glenwood Brown** (145, Plainfield, N.J.) ran his record to 18-0, 14 kayoes, with a hard-fought, 10-round majority decision over surprisingly tough Orland Orozco (146, Miami, Fla.).

A tremendous pace was set in the opening rounds; both men suffered eye cuts in the third heat and hurt each other at times throughout. Honors were fairly equal for the first four rounds or so, but Brown's greater natural ability asserted itself in the middle rounds. It looked for awhile as though Brown might score a kayo: Orozco seemed to be tiring steadily and Brown landed some very painful-looking shots in the eighth. But he ran out of gas with that effort, and Orozco staged a remarkable comeback in the ninth and 10th, showing lots of offense, including a massive left hook that wobbled Brown in the closing seconds.

But Orozco's late surge wasn't quite enough: Judges Barbara Perez and Georgie Colon scored it 6-4, Brown, while judge Tony Castellano has it 5-5. *The Ring* also had it 6-4, Brown. Orozco is 15-8-2, seven kayoes. Arthur Mercante Sr. refereed.

After several rounds of fiddling and posing and wrestling, Angel Hernandez (135, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico) and Timmy Burgess (136½, Brooklyn) got it together in the late going and ended up giving a pretty good show that saw Hernandez come away with a split, 10-round decision. The first six rounds were snores: Hernandez held, jabbed and ran, while Burgess kept swinging and missing. The biggest action came in the fourth, when Hernandez suddenly depantsed his opponent.

His dignity repaired, Burgess came on in the seventh with a big offensive move that spurred Hernandez into action as well. The next round was an even better brawl, with both men showing some skill at last. The last two heats were a little slower as the fighters tired, but they were still close, hard-fought and a bit dirty.

The scores were all over the place: Judge Perez had it 6-4, Burgess; Castellano, 6-4, Hernandez; and Colon,

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8-2, Hernandez. *The Ring* agreed with Castellano. Hernandez stays unbeaten at 28-0-2, 14 kayoes; Burgess is 12-4-2, two kayoes. Fred Ucci refereed.

In the third scheduled 10, Jackson, Tenn.-based **Jackie Beard,** a recent fixture here, ran his record to 32-3, 20 kayoes, by stopping veteran Pedro Montero at 2:05 of the fifth. Montero, 137½, had nothing at all and took a systematic battering from Beard, 135. There were no knockdowns, but ref Johnny Colan stepped in when it was clear Montero had no chance at anything but a brain injury. The Los Angeles-based victim is 22-11, seven kayoes.

Quincy Taylor (158, Dallas) scored his ninth win in as many fights, his eighth by kayo, overwhelming Roy Bedwell (160½, Jackson, Tenn.) at 2:22 of the second, scheduled eight. Both men were busy, but Bedwell, who had come in with a 6-0, one kayo record, seemed intimidated once a short left to the face put him on the deck late in the opening round. He went down for a count of six a few seconds later from what looked like a rather light left hand. Two body shots put him down for a third time, late in Round Two, and ref Ucci stopped it promptly at that point.

Wild-swinging Eddie Cruz (187, Brooklyn) went to 2-0, two kayoes with a quick blasting of Leland Hardy (189, Manhattan) in a scheduled four. A long right to the jaw dropped Hardy, now 1-2-1, for a three-count in the opening seconds; a similar punch put him down for five immediately thereafter. Hardy, by now clearly somewhat vague about his purpose in life and his mother's maiden name, was excused by ref Ucci at 1:13 of Round One.

Kevin Daly (179½, Brooklyn) won his pro debut with an earnest but very dull four-round win over Andrew Gordon (179, Waterbury, Conn.), who is now 3-4, one kayo. Gordon seemed to have some boxing ability, but was far too defensive-minded to win; Daly has a punch but appears to lack killer instinct. Mercante was the ref.

Attendance: 1,279.
Announcer: Ed Derian.
Timekeeper: Cecilio Pedraja.
Promoter: Madison Square Garden Boxing.
Matchmaker: Bob Goodman.
(4-14-88)

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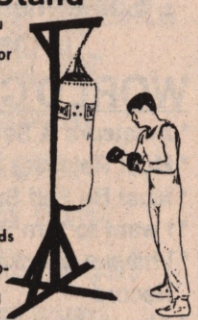

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▶**NEW YORK CITY**—Felt Forum—**Michael Dokes,** looking in shape at last at 225, took another big step down the comeback trail by disposing of tough **James Pritchard** (210, Louisville) at 2:32 of Round Seven in the scheduled 12-round main event for the Continental Americas heavyweight title.

It was a pretty good fight all the way, with both showing strong skills. Dokes had an edge on points through the first six heats, but Pritchard was able to hurt his man now and then. Dokes, who now fights out of Las Vegas, concentrated on the body throughout, and his strategic wisdom paid off in the seventh as Pritchard's arms began to droop. Dokes cashed in on this circumstance late in the seventh with a long left to the jaw that made Pritchard sway like a bunch of steamed asparagus; Dokes poured on the attack and after several unanswered shots ref Al LoBianco rescued Pritchard, who was clearly out on his feet. Dokes' record now stands 33-1-2, 20 kayoes; Pritchard went to 18-2-1, 14 kayoes.

In the main supporting bout, **Tunde Foster** (138½, Brooklyn) came back strong from a near-loss a couple months ago, this time winning a one-sided fourth-round TKO over Pedro Torres (138, New York City). It was not an inspiring bout: Foster simply overflowed his opponent, decking him with a left hook in the third and pounding him all over the ring in the fourth. Ref Nic Drake rescued the wandering Torres at 2:53 of that round. Foster is 15-0-1, 11 kayoes; Torres is 16-10-1, eight kayoes.

In a good, but rather scary scheduled eight, Felix Santiago (148, Brooklyn) ran his record to 18-1-1, 14 kayoes by stopping well-traveled Carl Crowley (146½, Dodge City, Kan.) at 2:55 of the seventh. Crowley showed far more ferocity than had been expected of him, throwing leather with no thought of a defense, and actually contrived to win a couple of rounds. But Santiago's superior all-round skills were evident, and Crowley couldn't cope for long.

The visitor was worn out by the sixth and took a lot of punishment; in the seventh, he finally went down from a left, a right and a shoulder block. He got up long enough to go down again from a right to the jaw, and when he rose from this knockdown he was clearly *hors de combat.* But ref Joe Santarpia allowed it to continue, and a long right from Santiago put Crowley flat on his back, out cold and twitching. He was down a long time, but was finally hauled upright, to the great relief of the crowd. His record in now 23-16, 14 kayoes, and he might want to hang it up.

Another veteran trialhorse did a little better: Jose Vidal (132, The Bronx) handed popular Bernard Gray his first loss in a very debatable eight-round decision.

This was a fine action fight in which Gray (132½, Boynton Beach, Fla.) showed his usual terrific hand and foot speed but spent too much time showboating and fouling. Vidal, who has heart but few skills, just kept plugging away, despite sustaining a flash knockdown at the end of the first round. He managed to cut Gray over the left eye in that first heat, and worked the wound successfully for the rest of the fight.

Gray, a highly skilled fighter, showed his ability only in spots. He gave Vidal a good going-over in the fourth and fifth, for instance, but loafed in the sixth, satisfying himself with a few low blows, a lot of wrestling, and hopping around with his left down around his ankles. Still, *The Ring* thought he'd done enough to win the fight, 5-2-1. Judge Ted Wint also liked Gray, 5-3, but judges Victor Suarez and Bernie Friedkin saw it for Vidal, 6-2 and 5-3, respectively. A bad call, perhaps, but Gray could have put the issue beyond doubt if only he'd worked harder. As it is, he's now 19-1, 13 kayoes; Vidal is 26-7-2, 16 kayoes. Harry Smith refereed.

Ricardo Cepeda (124½, The Bronx) scored a fourth-round TKO over Arvel Campbell (126½, Milwaukee) in a scheduled six. Campbell, who was outclassed all the way, did his best but was shot after two rounds; he was down three times in the third, although never seriously hurt; ref Santarpia stopped it at 1:04 of the fourth with Campbell still on two legs but not fighting back. Cepeda's record is 7-0-1, six kayoes; Campbell's is 5-7-1, two kayoes.

James Hackett (149, The Bronx) now has a singular record of 0-0-2 following a four-round draw with debuting Bobby Gorney (147, Oyster Bay, N.Y.). Hackett is an aggressive fellow with mediocre skills; Gorney looks like he was thrown out of Auschwitz for being too skinny, although he has a pretty good punch. *The Ring* and judge Friedkin had Hackett ahead, 3-1, but judges Suarez and Carol Castellano had a 2-2 draw, which seemed to displease no one.

Timekeeper: Cecilio Pedraja.
Announcer: Ed Derian.
Promoter: Madison Square Garden Boxing.
Matchmaker: Bob Goodman.
Attendance: 2,928.
(4-28-88)

JOSEPH D'O'BRIAN

▶**NEW YORK CITY**—Felt Forum—It wasn't much of a night, cancellations cutting the usual eight- or nine-bout marathon card down to five, with who didn't show up more important than who did.

Featherweight **Myron Taylor** pulled out of the 10-round co-feature when he got a chance to sub in an IBF title match in Atlantic City, but the Garden has him under contract for his next few bouts. Light heavyweight **Lenny LaPaglia** pulled out of his bout with the flu.

So, one of the Garden's pet fighters, Seamus McDonagh, being a little too big for a featherweight bout, inherited LaPaglia's opponent for what became the card's lone 10-rounder.

McDonagh, 177, Brooklyn, took his 12-0-1 record — the draw being favorable to McDonagh — in against Louisville, Kentucky's Mike Peak, 175, and came out no longer undefeated, losing a unanimous, 10-round decision.

But the big surprise was not that McDonagh lost, but that the New York officials called a fairly close fight against him in his own backyard. Judges Tony Castellano and Johnny LoBianco each scored 7-3, with judge Dan Whelan calling it 8-2, all in favor of Peak, who went to 10-1-2 with two KOs.

Peak ran and jabbed McDonagh silly, not exactly a crowd-pleasing strategy, but certainly the most intelligent, considering McDonagh is, and always will be just a face-first puncher, publicity or no publicity. McDonagh's easily bruised face picked up some more damage as he suffered a bloody nose and a bruise on the left cheek about the size of a quarter. But there were no knockdowns and no one got seriously hurt.

Fighting his first 10, Peak tired a little in the latter rounds, and McDonagh had a strong 10th as he chased a worried Peak from corner to corner. Sweeping the last three rounds earned McDonagh a 5-4-1 edge on *The Ring* card, but there is no complaint with the verdict as Peak showed a cleverness McDonagh has yet to display. Of course, there hasn't been a clever Irish fighter since **Joey Archer** a generation ago.

In the scheduled eight-round semifinal, undefeated heavyweight **Alex "Destroyer" Stewart,** 233, Brooklyn, kept his record clean at 12-0, all by knockout. This time the designated punching bag was Mike Jones, 221, Memphis, Tennessee, who appeared about 20 pounds lighter than his announced weight. Stewart has become popular locally by knocking over a string of semi-warm bodies the past year, and this was no exception. Stewart was a little slower than usual, so the crowd had to sit through three desultory rounds before being treated to some fireworks.

In the fourth, Jones started backing into corners, and Stewart made him pay for that most common of boxing sins. A long right uppercut hit the bullseye and had Jones on Queer Street before Stewart sent him crashing to the deck with a follow-up left hook and two jolting left-right combinations. Referee Charley Norkus didn't bother finishing the count.

Stewart has a good punch in both hands. Now, he has to learn to move.

In a four-round heavyweight contest that would have been a clown match if somebody hadn't stood a chance of getting seriously hurt, Joey Winters, 195, Smithtown, Long Island, stopped Tony "The Tiger" Hayes, 212, High Point, North Carolina, after two full rounds. Hayes decked Winters in the first and second rounds, but was decked himself before the second round was over. Hayes was so totally out of gas that the ringside doctor wouldn't allow him entry into the third session. With two guys like this, the bout is a success if nobody is permanentlfy injured and nobody gets sued.

In a scheduled six, Stephan Johnson, 148, Brooklyn, knocked out Keith Roberts, 147½, Louisville, at 34 seconds of Round Two. A pair of Johnson overhand rights knocked the mouthpiece of Roberts clear across the ring in Round One. In the second round, Roberts joined it, a left hook making him do a somersault after which he landed with a thud.

Why is it the more dangerous the nickname, the more ineffective the fighter? In another scheduled six, Merqui Sosa, 163, Brooklyn, defused Sidney "Time Bomb" Gantz, 162, Reading, Pennsylvania, with a TKO between rounds three and four.

Gantz took the first round, but Sosa landed a good stomach shot at the beginning of the second. Gantz went on his bicycle, caught a flurry backing up, and went down for a count of six. Gantz took a lot of punishment in corners in the third round and before the fourth the ring doctor again did his duty.

Referee: Carl Schroeder (main event).
Attendance: 2,034.
(4-12-88)

CHARLES D. BROWN

▶**BROOKLYN**—Gleason's Arena—Nestled under the Brooklyn Bridge, inaugural presentation spilled over into a new day, but few seemed to mind the delays, announcements, introductions or the midnight hour; this was old-fashioned style club boxing—no stiffs, no stinkers—the right mix of ingredients, namely atmosphere and action.

Happily for fans and matchmaker Ron Scott Stevens, the top bout proved to be *THE* highlight of the evening; the one that will carry the word around town. Felix "Superstar" Santiago, 149, Brooklyn, took on Brian "The Blitz" Nitz, 149½, Pomeroy, Ohio, in a rock 'em, sock 'em affair that offered few skills but many thrills. The local lad managed to grab an eight-round split decision when Nitz faltered in the closing rounds.

The first five rounds were pure heaven for mayhem fanatics. Back and forth they went, with Santiago nearly out on his feet in Round Two and Nitz falling to pieces in the third, pushing himself far beyond his talents to claw his way back on top by the fifth. But that would be his last winning round, save for the guts it took to stand upright through the final bell. The key to victory for Felix was the right hand to the body which clearly bothered a wilting Brian in those later rounds. The crowd stood and cheered a most entertaining and courageous effort by both boxers. Scores: Jack Defaris, 6-2, Marvin Goldberg, 5-2-1, and Billy Costello saw it 4-4 in rounds, but gave a 5-4 edge to Nitz in points. Ref, Arthur Mercante Jr. Santiago is now listed at 19-1-1, 14 KOs, while Nitz dropped his second straight New York City appearance and is now 7-2, all wins by KO.

Alex Stewart, 220, Brooklyn, raised his record to 13-0, all by the stoppage route, when his scheduled eight with James Berry, 224, Miami, was stopped in the first. Berry, who appeared ill-equipped to stymie Stewart, had managed to avoid some amateurish lunging rights by Alex until one such bomb caught Berry high on the temple, dropping him hard in the Stewart corner. He arose at seven, but ref Fred Ucci, apparently concerned over the way Berry went down and the documented power of Stewart, halted the fight at the 2:31 mark.

Hilario "Eddie" Mercedes, 142, The Bronx, rode to victory via a six-round split decision over Carl Admiral Goulding, 142, Brooklyn by way of Guyana. Hilario, in bull-like rushes, dominated the early rounds with his wild left hook, nearly sinking Carl when he dropped him for an eight count in Round Two. The taller Goulding rallied briefly, but fell just short. Scores: Defaris, 3-2-1, with Goldberg the same, but Defaris saw it for Mercedes. Costello broke the deadlock with a rather wide 5-1 card for Mercedes. Ref; Mercante.

Southpaw Edwin Ruiz, 140, Elizabeth, NJ, won a scheduled six-rounder by TKO at 2:30 of the fifth over lanky Luis Castillo, 141, Brooklyn. Luis was behind all the way; dropped in Round Two by a right hook, hurt badly in the fourth and put down again by a straight left in the fifth, causing referee Ucci to stop the bout. Ruiz is now 5-2, three KOs; Castillo, 4-4, three KOs.

Rahim Muhammad, 164½, Atlantic City, NJ, took a majority decision in four over slimly built David Fields, 161, Brooklyn, in an ungainly matchup. Rahim was the busier. At least he was coming forward. Ref; Jim Santa. Scores: 3-1 from Defaris and Costello, 2-2 from Goldberg.

A decidedly taller Miguel Corbonell, 119, The Bronx, turned pro with a split decision win in four over Alfredo Taylor, 118½, Manhattan via Panama (0-2). The difference appeared to be a questionable flooring of Taylor in the first. Ref; Santa. Scores: Defaris, 3-1, and Goldberg, 2-1-1 for Corbonell, while Costello, the former WBC super lightweight titleholder, working his first bout as a judge, saw it 3-1 for Taylor.

In the pro debuts for both, James I. Durbin, 203, Hempstead, NY, took home the win when his opponent, Damasol Rosendary, 217, Brooklyn, retired on his stool after the second round. Neither one showed much promise. It was ruled a second-round TKO. Ref; Santa.

Saturday morning's walkout saw Julio Jimenez, 140, Brooklyn, get his pro career off on the right foot when he won by TKO at 2:03 of Round Two over a reluctant Tyrone Nelson, 140½, also Brooklyn. Nelson was dropped in the first and twice in the second, the last coming just as referee Santa was leaping in to stop it anyway. It was scheduled for four.

Timekeeper: Cecilio Pedraja.
Promoter: Powerhouse Enterprises/Ron Scott Stevens
Announcer: Mike Buffer.

Attendance: 900 (est.).
Ticket Prices: $20.00 for general admission; $25.00 for limited ringside seats.
(5-20-88)

▶**STATEN ISLAND**—Monsignor Farrell High School—It's a familiar story, time honored but cheerless. The ex-champion who has fallen out of the limelight, continues on as if rebirth is just around the corner, but always looking the worse for wear, even in victory.

Davey Moore, 159, The Bronx, former WBA junior middleweight boss, was the case under study tonight in this scheduled 10. Headlining a humble little card in a school gym, he was pitted against an even more grizzled veteran in Gary Coats, 162½, Detroit.

Needless to say, neither possessed the reflexes of prime time, and while Moore was . . . well, Moore — all offense — Gary would occasionally chime in with a substantial right hand. To make matters even worse for Coats, he injured his right arm in the fourth, but somehow found it "repaired" by the sixth. It was here that Gary appeared to be rallying — a right had sent Moore's mouthpiece flying — when ringside physician Rufus Sadler got up, took his stethoscope and hurled it into the ring in order to get referee Oscar Perez to stop the bout, which he did, declaring Moore a TKO winner at 2:24 of the sixth. Apparently, the doctor felt that Coats could not go on because of the injured right arm.

The Coats corner was puzzled by the bizarre ending, and even Davey and Gary actually tried to start it up again before order was restored. Coats, who only won one round on one card and none on the other two (*The Ring* gave him only the first session), still couldn't figure out why it was stopped. Dr. Sadler was no help, telling this reporter he had no comment and to just go ask the fighter (Coats).

In the semi, also scheduled for 10, undefeated (now 15-0, nine KOs) southpaw Tracy Spann, 137½, Plainfield, NJ, wasted little time in putting on his work clothes as he mowed down overmatched Felipe Julio, 141, Miami, via Bogota, Colombia. Spann did what he had to do, pressing all the way in Round One, then dropping Julio twice in the next session before referee Oscar Perez ruled a TKO win for Spann at 1:56 of the second.

Dominick Monaco, 126½, Brooklyn, was a wee bit lucky to take an eight-round, split decision over Ricky West, 126, Cleveland. It was felt that Dom would be too strong for Ricky, but they mixed it up rather evenly over the entire route. Monaco may have had the better single punch, but Ricky certainly was the busier. While Nick Cimino had it 5-3 and Harold Lederman, 6-2, for Monaco, Barbara Perez disagreed at 6-2 West. *The Ring* card read 4-4. Ref, Sammy Viruet.

Lanky Art Tucker, 215, Newark, brought his record to 9-0-1, seven KOs, when John "Big Red" Morton, 220, Louisville, showed little effort in getting up from a right uppercut knockdown and was counted out in just 2:53 of the first, scheduled for six. Ref; Perez.

After an even first round, William "Bo" James, 158, Newark, had a suprisingly easy time of it with southpaw Walter Houston, 154, S.I. The local lad was cut over the right eye in the third and visibly shaken in the fifth as the taller James kept Walter on the end of his punches. James took a six-round, unanimous decision with scores of 5-1 from Perez and Cimino and 4-2 from Lederman. James is 5-2, while Houston fell to 6-4-2. Ref; Viruet.

After the fight, Houston complained of dizziness and was rushed to the hospital with a slight concussion. His condition was serious, but stable a few days later. Nevertheless, his career in New York is over.

Timekeeper: Tony Perez.
Promoter: Magical Promotions.
Matchmaker: Don Elbaum.
(4-30-88)

▶**MANHATTAN**—Cooperative Auditorium—The Lower East Side — now that's a melting pot, but an odd spot for professional boxing. Even with all the diverse ethnic backgrounds sparring for space, a small and hastily arranged card could do no better than word of mouth attendance in a community hall above a supermarket in sight of the Manhattan Bridge.

Rusty (out nearly one year) **Juan Laporte**, 131, Brooklyn, got top billing in a scheduled 10 against a guy we originally thought might fold up early. He didn't, and it nearly ruined an attractive undercard. The rarely energetic Laporte, and Robert Anderson, 132½, Phoenix, a reed-thin southpaw, went eight full rounds before Juan had his hand raised in victory.

Anderson, a defensive "genius," was no one to look good against, and though Juan occasionally got inside to work the left hook up and down, he was just as content to stay "home" in this all-holds-barred encounter. Robert would mug and move, then jab and hold. Juan didn't seem to mind, and it wasn't until trainer **Emile Griffith** got on his case more and more that Juan finally threw off his cloak of moderation and put increasing pressure to the rib cage of his elongated target.

Pinned on the ropes for a goodly portion of Round Eight, Anderson said "no more" soon after reaching his stool. Thus, the former WBC featherweight champion won by an eighth-round TKO, the 16th stoppage in his 30-7 record. Referee was Arthur Mercante Jr.

Angel Cruz, 143, Bethlehem, Pa., looked good enough in spots to overpower a slim Ray Doughty, 139, Waterbury, Ct., and take an eight-round, unanimous decision by scores of 6-2 from both Al Reid and Nick Cimino, while judge Marvin Goldberg saw it 5-2-1, same as *The Ring*. Cruz lost Round Six for pushing off when he became over-anxious to put away a hurt Doughty, who was also floored in the seventh from hammering rights by Angel. Ref; Jim Santa. Cruz, the New York state junior welterweight champion when he is billed out of Brooklyn, (but all his bouts in 1987 were in Easton, Pa.) upped his record to 25-5-2, eight KOs, while Ray is reported to be 10-8.

Richie Otero, 135½, Brooklyn, and Julio C. Merino, 134, Newark, engaged in a spirited brawl that showed that Richie was much too strong for the willing Merino as he copped a unanimous, six-round decision. Otero took scores of 6-0 from Cimino and Reid, while Goldberg tabbed it 5-0-1. *The Ring* had it a shutout. Ref; Mercante.

Roosevelt Walker, 153½, Paterson, NJ, upped his record to 2-0 with a four-round, unanimous decision over Gilbert Baez, 155½, The Bronx, who was making his debut. The slippery switch-hitting Walker took all but Round One and took scores of 3-1 from both Reid and Goldberg and 4-0 from Cimino. *The Ring* had it 3-1. Ref; Mercante.

In another scheduled four, Luis Castillo, 141, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, survived a rocky Round One to come back and get a TKO win at 2:54 of Round Two over Ruben Lopez, 139, Jersey City via Puerto Rico. While Castillo was staggered only once in the first round, Lopez was repeatedly tagged in the following session, with referee Santa finally coming to his aid. Castillo now is 4-3, Lopez a reported 1-2.

Timekeeper: Cecilio Pedroja.
Promoter: Magical Promotions.

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Matchmaker: Harold Weston Jr.
Announcer: Sandy Redock.
Attendance: 350 (est.).
(4-22-88)

JACK OBERMAYER

OHIO

▶**CLEVELAND**—Swingo's At The Statler—When the main event and half the undercard for this promotion fell out, promoter John Giachetti was forced to do some hectic shuffling in order to save the show.

In the replacement main event, prospect Frankie Randall, 141, Knoxville, scored a one-punch knockout over Sebastian Wilburn, 140, Benton Harbor, Michigan, at 2:57 of the first, scheduled for 10.

The two traded rather evenly throughout the first, but a crushing left hook to the head of Wilburn put him down for the count.

In a scheduled eight-rounder, Donnell Wingfield, 176, Cleveland, again impressed, stopping rough Tim Long, 179, Akron, at 2:30 of the second in a wild brawl. From the opening bell, both were on each other like two pit bulls, neither giving an inch. The action continued well after the bell ended the round. In the second, Wingfield countered Long's illegal tactics with savage hooks to the body, dropping him, the fight being stopped shortly thereafter.

After, the loser exclaimed, "Wingfield was the toughest man I've ever faced. I hit him with forearms, elbows, shoulders, low blows and even head butts, but nothing fazed him."

Henry Hughes, 142, Cleveland, made his first hometown appearance a successful one, scoring a unanimous, eight-round decision over veteran trialhorse Efraim Nieves, 143, Milwaukee.

LaMark Davis, 154, Dayton, scored a knockout over game Wes Caldwell, 155, Columbus. Davis was just too smooth for Caldwell, who seemed a bit tense. Caldwell was down once in the second before going down for the count in the third of the scheduled four.

Willie Phillips, 225, Sharon, Pennsylvania, landed a chopping right to the jaw of Jeff Feeney, 225, Buffalo, to score a 36-second knockout. Though he went down hard, Freeney appeared unhurt. But he made no attempt to get up to continue the scheduled four.

Promoter: John Giachetti (TKO Productions).
Matchmaker: Tom Vacca.
Referees: Ron Tillman & Jackie Keough.
Attendance: 700 (est.).
(5-10-88)

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PENNSYLVANIA

▶**PHILADELPHIA**—Blue Horizon—Two sleepers who toil in the shadows hoping to somehow earn a break at least got the opportunity to fight for a title of a sort. Rodney Moore and Ali Saad Muhammad battled for the state jr. welter crown left vacant by Fred Pendleton, and responded with a spirited crowd-pleaser. The one-sidedness, however, took away a good bit of the drama and reduced the eventual loser to a desperation game plan. A tricky southpaw, Ali, 140, S. Phila., is most effective when he can draw an attack, then side-step to pop an odd-angle counter or two. But the rangy Moore, 138½, N. Phila., was able to reach him from outside without being lured into the web of deception. Ali was thoroughly frustrated, but got some daylight when Rodney appeared tiring in the sixth. Moore reclaimed control with a strong seventh, however, while Saad was only able to keep up the spirit of local rivalry with vigorous, though largely futile swings through the remainder of the 12. Ozzie Sadler scored 59-53, Al Morris, 57-52, and newcomer Woody Marcus 58-55. The winner rose to 16-6-1 and the loser fell to 8-3-3. Rudy Battle refereed.

Marvin Garris, 142½, N. Phila., appeared lucky to gain an unpopular split verdict over Joe Alexander, 141, W. Phila., in an eight that proved pleasing up until the decision. Garris looked a bit tired and confined his attack to eye-catching flurries. But it was the rugged Alexander who exerted the pressure and "made" the grueling contest. Marvin's big finishes stole several rounds and got him a 37-36 on the cards of Morris and Marcus. Ozzie appeared correct at 37-36 Alexander. Garris went to 14-7-1 and Joe to 12-10-1. Ref, George Hill.

Nate Miller, 190, Germantown, was trudging through a routine eight with unorthodox Tim Bullock, 192½, Fayetteville, NC, when the unpredictable happened. Bullock, normally a wild man, was unusually subdued when an accidental clash of heads split his left eye. The bout had to be terminated at 1:04 of the sixth with the outcome going to the cards. Ozzie had a positively outrageous 24-21 Bullock, but was thankfully outvoted by Morris (23-22) and Marcus (25-22) to give Miller a technical win. Nate is unbeaten in 11, while Tim fell to 11-7-1. Ref, Battle.

Rugged Eric Holland, 157, N. Phila., bulldozed Terrence Jacobs, 155, N. Phila., to win a unanimous decision, four. Terrence was dropped by a charge and a clash of heads in the second, and took to holding in falling to 2-6. Eric went to 3-7-2 with a lot of close losses. Ref, Hill.

Debuting Johnny Ray, 150, Point Pleasant, NJ, via N. Phila., decimated self-destructive Hakki Gulmez, 148½, Istanbul, Turkey, via Paulsboro, NJ, with a TKO at 0:58 of the fourth and last round. In falling to 0-4, Hakki was blasted down in the first, but struggled into the fourth before being dropped again. Ref, Hill.

Two comedy fours closed the show. Debuting Carlos Santiago, 164, N. Phila., outgunned hot-dogging Maurice Johnson, 161½, Wilmington, with a TKO at 1:30 of the second. Maurice drew catcalls, and a standing eight, when he backed out of a heated exchange in the first, then was limp on the ropes when Battle stopped it. The loser fell to 2-2.

Johnny Miller, 169½, Franklinville, NJ, took apart debuting John Riley, 167½, Wilmington, who was overwhelmed, dropped twice and halted at 2:47 of a wild and woolly first. The winner went to 4-4. Ref, Hill.

Promoter: Peltz Boxing.
Matchmaker: J. Russell Peltz.
Attendance: 850, $9,800 (est.).
TV: USA Network.
Timekeeper: Tony Stenza.
Announcer: Ed Derian.
(5-19-88)

▶**PHILADELPHIA**—Blue Horizon—The question-mark career of **Hughie "Buttons" Kearney** had been putt-putting along by inches, but crashed with the impact of an Indy car. Unknown **Jorge Maysonet** electrified fans, mortified the promoter, panicked TV execs, and planted Hughie, all in only 20 seconds! If a perfect knockout log in a 19-2 record weren't enough, the fact that the invader's conquests included Derwin Richards should have aroused suspicion. Richards had provided Kearney with the only blemish on his 17-0-1 slate, coming in Hughie's last fight. Yet it surprised everyone (most of all Buttons!) when Jorge knocked him cold with the first combination of the scheduled 10.

Kearney, 147, W. Phila., never had time to find the range before Maysonet, 148, NYC, launched him due south. A lightning jab-straight right-left hook combo sent Hughie into the planks so stiff he could have been one of them. The stricken fighter lay unconscious for several minutes, while anxious family members could barely restrain themselves. "When we had him in New York, he won, but it was nothing special," beamed the winner's manager, Joe Scorcia. "I told him he'd have to show all he had to win down here, but we never expected anything like this!" Rudy Battle refereed.

On a modest upswing of late, Mike Brown, 138, N. Phila., raised his record to 7-14-2 with a split decision over returning Curtis Adams, 141, Germantown, eight. Normally a clever boxer, Brown found the classic Adams outsharping him early. Turning to punching, Mike worked the body, then brought up a left hook to dump Curtis in the fourth. Adams faded, visited the floor again in the seventh and no way deserved Frank Martin's 38-34 vote. Al Morris scored 37-33 and Manny Altman 38-32 to drop Curtis to 8-7-1. Ref, Battle.

Andre "The" Prophet, 181, N. Phila., dismantled Dionisio Del Valle, 185½, NYC, at 1:50 of an explosive first, scheduled six. The aggressive Del Valle was blasted flat on his back by a straight right, then staggered along the ropes when ref John Carroll rescued him without protest. The unbeaten Prophet won his eighth, while Del Valle went to 2-2.

Unbeaten Rob Jenkins, 166½, N. Phila., won his sixth, while handing a rude return to Anthony Rosser, 168, W. Phila., after a three-year absence. In a wild melee, the free-swinging Rosser was beaten to the punch by the crisper Jenkins, getting floored three times for a TKO at 2:19 of the second, scheduled six. Anthony became 4-3. Ref, Carroll.

Arch villain Chris Organtini, 137½, Norristown, scored a hit, of sorts, with a brutal TKO of Sterling Staton, 136½, N. Phila., at 0:57 of the first, scheduled six. A ripping uppercut spun Staton to the canvas, breaking his ankle in the spiral fall. Chris rose to 8-1 and Sterling dropped to 1-4. Ref, Carroll.

Promoter: Peltz Boxing.
Matchmaker: J. Russell Peltz.
Attendance: 1,066, $12,238.
TV: USA Network.
Timekeeper: Tony Stenza.
Announcer: Hank Kropinski.
(4-28-88)

J.R. JOWETT

TENNESSEE

▶**MEMPHIS**—Omni-Daisy Theatre—Greg "The Beale Street Hitman" Dickson, 153¼, Memphis, improved his record to 16-1, but his 10-round decision over Jackson's Lester Yarbrough, 153¼, may have been costly as Dickson felt he broke his right hand in the third round.

"I broke my hand before, maybe around last November," Dickson told Ron Higgins of *The Commercial Appeal*. "I guess it didn't heal properly. I came back last month because I didn't want to lay off. Maybe I came back too quick."

Dickson received scores of 97-95 and 98-94 (twice), but said, "Maybe if I would have had my right hand, I could have finished him off."

In the best bout of the night, Fred "The Tank" Adams, 129½, Detroit, won a unanimous, eight-round decision over Steve Hunter, 133, St. Louis, the judges scoring 79-77, 78-76 and 80-73.

Hunter spotted Adams the first three frames, but came back to give Adams a good battle.

"It was a hell of a fight," Adams admitted to Higgins. "When I hit him with some early shots and he took them, I knew it would go the distance. I wanted to go the distance because I've got a 10-round bout coming in a couple of weeks."

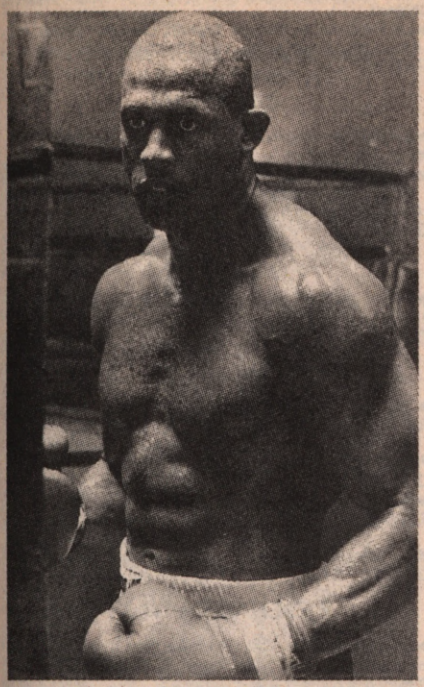
Covington, Tennessee's Chuck Glover, 143, stopped James Sanders of Greenville, Mississippi, at 2:12 of the second round of a scheduled six.

Willie Thomas, 151, Meridian, Mississippi, won a unanimous, four-round decision over Tommy Jeans, 152¼, Memphis.

Promoter: Mid South Boxing, Inc./Tom Harmon.
Matchmaker: Red Fortner.
Announcer: Sleepy Rutherford.
Judges: Sam Garland, Mark Acheson, Gilbert Beam, James Perkins & Haywood Watts.
Referees: Jim Kidd, Irving Tucker & Sam Garland.
Timekeeper: Rod Cardone.
Physician: Jeff Hoover.
Attendance: 550 (est.).
(5-3-88)

MICHAEL GLENN

TEXAS



Texas heavyweight prospect Mike Williams continued his winning ways with a two-round blastout of veteran Dorcey Gaymon in Houston.

▶**HOUSTON**—Bingo Wonderland—Texan heavyweight **Mike Williams**, 215, *The Ring's* 1987 Prospect of the Year, knocked out Florida veteran Dorcey Gaymon, 220, at 1:10 of Round Two of a scheduled 10.

In a companion 10, Texan Reggie Johnson, 160½, knocked out Illinois' William Clayton, 160, at 55 seconds of Round Three.

A scheduled eight also ended early, Manning Galloway, 152, stopping fellow-Texan Anthony Relford, 151, at 1:50 of Round Seven.

Anthony Stephens, 140, Texas, knocked out Fernando Amaya, 141, Mexico, at 1:07 of the second of a scheduled six.

Jerry Stephens, 147, Texas, knocked out Mexico's Jose Coronado, 148, at 2:59 of Round Two of another scheduled six.

Promoter: Randy Jordan.
Matchmakers: Lauren Pebley & Wayne Harrison.
Judges: P. Morrison, Elias Sanchez & Edwin Horn.
Referees: Barry Yates & Robert Gonzales.
Timekeepers: Ferris & Gifrow.
(5-10-88)

▶**CORPUS CHRISTI**—On the undercard of **Lupe Suarez'** three-round knockout of Rene Constantino, Texan Roland Gomez, 117½, ended his scheduled 10 with Mexico's Dionicio Espinoza, 118, by TKO at 3:06 of the sixth round.

A scheduled eight also ended in the sixth, this one by TKO at 2:07 as Texan Ricky Alvarez, 130½, stopped Mexico's Francisco Pena, 128.

In a scheduled six between Texans, LeRoy Rivera, 149½, stopped Roland Guerrero, 149, at 1:46 of the fourth.

Texan Robert Garza, 119½, ended his scheduled four with Mexican Rosenberg Armenta, 120½, quickly, posting a TKO in just 2:32.

Promoter: Main Events.
Matchmaker: Wayne Harrison.
Referees: Garza & Collins.
Judges: Whitley, Ellsworth & Ronje.
Timekeepers: Ferris & Barba.
(4-9-88)

▶**HOUSTON**—Bingo Wonderland—Texan **James Pipps**, 128½, improved his record to 38-1-1 with a KO at 1:28 of the eighth round of a scheduled 10 with Mexican Jose Favila, 130½, who fell to 23-5.

Texan Reggie Johnson, 160½, upped his mark to 16-1-1 with a unanimous, eight-round decision over Jake Torrence, 156, of Illinois. Torrence fell to 16-9.

Texan Kenny Snow, 161¾, knocked out Norberto Bueno, 158, Illinois, at 2:34 of the second of another scheduled eight. Bueno is a reported 14-8.

Anthony Stephens, 140, Texas, remained perfect in five bouts, winning a six-round, unanimous decision over Louisiana's Antonio Carter, 139. Carter is 5-4.

Another six also ended in unanimous decision, Texan Joey Parker, 194½, moving to 15-3 with a verdict over Louisiana's Lavell Stanley, 188, who slipped to 13-5.

In a scheduled four between Texans, Dwain Ortiz, 134½, made a successful pro debut by stopping Placido Sanchez, 134, with 1:54 remaining.

Promoter: Randy Jordan.
Matchmakers: Lauren Pebley & Wayne Harrison.
Referees: Yeats & Schelski.
Judges: Martin, Horn & Sanchez.
Timekeepers: Ferris & Barba.
(4-6-88)

▶**HOUSTON**—Texan Pascual Aranda, 130, won a unanimous, 10-round decision over Thomas Gonzales, 132.

Another scheduled 10 ended early, Ramiro Adames, 125, stopping Texan Rigoberto Rosas, 125, at 2:32 of the fourth round.

In a scheduled six between Texans, Filaberto Rosas, 136, stopped Joe Moreno, 136, in just 2:17.

Promoter: David Marquez Promotions.
Matchmaker: David Marquez.
Referees: Jordan & Sechelski.
Judges: Ralston, McCowan & Yeats.
Timekeepers: Ferris & Joerns.
(3-27-88)

▶**HOUSTON**—On the undercard of **Kenny Mitchell's** 12-round split decision win over **Gaby Canizales**, Louisiana's Kevin Casimier, 189, won a unanimous, 10-round decision over Texan Andre McCall, 190.

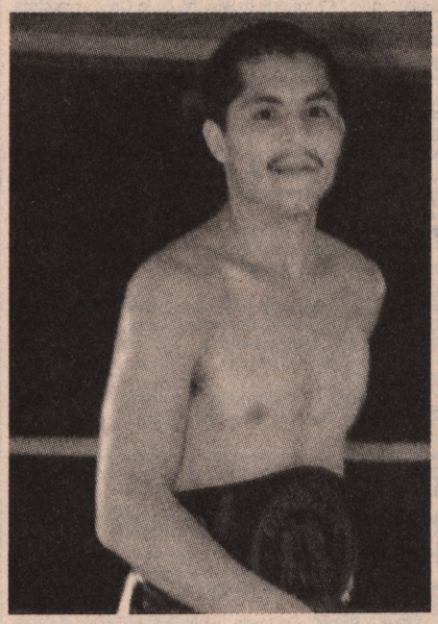
Three six-rounders filled out the card.

Mice Sacchetti, 159, won by split decision over Darryl Robinson, 159. Both reside in Texas.

James Harris, 152, won a unanimous verdict over Ty Horne, 153, in another matchup- of Texas residents.

Anthony Stephens, 141, Louisiana, stopped Texan Raymundo Chavez, 139, in the opening round.

Promoter: Houston Boxing Association.
Referees: Gonzales & Tessman.
Judges: Bertani, Martin & Daniels.
Timekeepers: Ferris & Giffrow.
(3-25-88)



Dallas veteran Rogelio Lopez gave his career a shot in the arm by stopping Mark Hammon in Round Four.

▶**DALLAS**—Garden City Ballroom—David Johnson was supposed to face Rogelio Lopez for something called the vacant Standing 8 Inc. Texas junior lightweight title. But Johnson broke his hand, so Mark Hammon was rushed in.

Apparently, the fact that Hammon is from Oklahoma does not prevent him from challenging for this group's Texas crown.

No matter. Lopez, of Dallas, notched his 10th KO in his 14-8 record, stopping Hammon in the fourth round.

Lopez took control in the second, giving Hammon a good beating, then dropped him twice in the fatal session.

"This fight puts Rogelio in the NABF and USBA rankings," said Standing 8 Inc. promoter Garrett Scanlan. "We'll look for one more good fight, then go for one of those titles here in Dallas."

The semifinal eight produced a rare conclusion, a double disqualification, heavyweights Gilbert Vera, Fort Worth, and Darrell Rouse, Tulsa, being the culprits.

Vera, 8-1 with seven KOs, came in off a year layoff, but decked the 6-5 Rouse, who claims a 4-2, three KOs record, in the third. Rouse recovered well and landed often over the next several rounds, particularly with a right uppercut. But each was guilty of fouling and, after the sixth round concluded, referee Jerry McKinsey couldn't separate the two as they punched, kneed and butted each other.

After the pair spent about two minutes impersonating professional wrestlers, McKinsey, aided by the cornermen, finally got them back to their stools and promptly disqualified each.

A featherweight bout scheduled for four ended in the third, Mexico's Eugenio Rios stopping Odessa's Robert Carrillo.

Port Arthur bantamweight Sam Jones won a split, six-round decision over Jose Herrera, Dallas.

Fort Worth featherweight Troy Dorsey knocked out Mexico's Delfino Reyes in the seventh of a scheduled eight.

San Antonio welterweight Roberto Vasquez stopped Fort Worth's Martin Guevara in the first of a scheduled eight.

Promoter: Standing 8 Inc./Garrett Scanlan.
Matchmaker: Wayne Harrison.
Attendance: 1,309; Gate: $11,743.
Referees: Dickie Cole, Spyder Bynum & Jerry McKinsey.
Physician: Cordell Clark.
(5-1-88)

▶**HOUSTON**—Unbeaten **Tony Willis** of Chicago retained his NABF light heavyweight title with a unanimous, 12-round decision over California's Mike Sedillo.

Willis, 174, who now fights out of Houston, took scores of 117-110, 119-109 and 119-108 to move to 15-0 with 11 knockouts.

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The heavier puncher, Willis dominated the 6-3 Sedillo, also 174, punctuating his win with a final-round knockdown courtesy of a right hand. Sedillo just about made it to his feet, hanging on to the finish.

An eight-rounder also went the route, Everett Martin, 194, winning by unanimous decision over fellow-Texan Joey Parker, also 194.

A six-round battle between Texans saw Phil Jones win by split nod over Mike Sachetti. Each weighed 159.

Two four-rounders also went the route, Dwain Ortiz, 134, winning a unanimous decision over Roland Rangel, 134, and Steven Alvarado, 129, winning a majority verdict over Raymond Flores, 130. All four are billed from Texas.

The only bout to end inside the distance was also scheduled for four rounds, Dion Burgess stopping Toe McNeely at 1:18 of the third of a heavyweight encounter.

Promoter: Houston Boxing Association.
Referees: Tessman & Jordan.
Judges: Bertani, Ralston & McCullough.
Timekeepers: Ferris & Giffrow.
Matchmaker: Joe Spudic.
(4-29-88)

▶**MERCEDES**—An eight-round bout topped this club show, Carmen Sarmiento stopping Filiberto Rosas at 1:01 of the sixth round in the headliner.

Each was billed from Texas weighing 137 pounds.

Texan Iram Zavala, 135, unanimously decisioned Uriel Martinez, 134, Texas, in a six-rounder.

Three four-rounders filled out the card, but just one went the route as Texan Martin Molina won a majority decision over Mexico's Luis Lopez. Molina weighed 138, Lopez, 140.

Jesus Cuevas, 121, stopped Joe Flores, 125, at 2:59 of the first after Flores had been down three times in his pro debut. Each is billed from Texas.

Rudy Lopez, 125, stopped debuting Arnaldo Cisneros, 124, at 2:14 of the first. Each hails from Texas.

Promoter: Ringside Texas.
Matchmaker: Juan Moya.
Referees: Avalos & Avendano.
Judges: Avendano, Flores & Wells.
Timekeepers: Bernal & Istesias.
(4-29-88)

▶**PASADENA**—Ron Collins, 160, Texas, scored a unanimous, 10-round decision over Charles Campbell, 160, Texas, in the co-main event.

The other 10 saw Lupe Miranda, 134¼, Texas, win by unanimous verdict over Dwain Swift, 135, Oklahoma.

Chuck Garner, 154½, Texas, won a unanimous, six-round decision over Louisiana's Tyrone McKnight, 155¼.

Two four-rounders failed to go the distance, Scott Johnson, 147½, stopping Andrew Banks, 151½, at 2:54 of the second round and, in a battle of rookies, Mario Gongoria, 130¼, stopped Belizario Valdez, 128¼, in just 2:59. All four are billed from Texas.

Promoter: Super Pro Events.
Matchmaker: Joe Spudic.
Referees: Tessman & Sechelski.
Judges: Daniels, Sanchez & Martin.
Timekeepers: Ferris & Giffrow.
(5-11-88)

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VIRGINIA

▶**BEALTON**—Virginian Willie Taylor, 139, won a unanimous, 10-round decision over North Carolina's Thomas Warren, 139, in the main event.

A six-round bout featuring female boxers ended in a draw, California's Jo Ann Mettillo, 136, and Washington, D.C.'s Tanya Coleman, 132, finishing even.

Two scheduled four-rounders ended in the first round, Virginia's Tommy Smith, 222, stopping North Carolina's Robert Turner, 207, and Wisconsin's Troy Emerson, 170, halting North Carolina's Claude Moore, 167.

A five-round kickboxing bout started the evening.
Promoter: Jim Ed Jones.
Referees: Wollesen & Levy.
Judges: LaPrade & Favin.
Timekeeper: Hall.
Physician: Sprenkle.
(4-20-88)

▶**CRYSTAL CITY**—The main event saw New Jersey's Harold Rhodes, 129, win by decision over Washington, D.C.'s Keely Thompson, 133, after 10.

New Jersey's 19-year-old Derrick Rolon, 146, made the Garden State two-for-two on this card, stopping North Carolina's Warren Knots, 148, in the second of a scheduled six.

Two other sixes went the distance, New York's Terry Young, 165, winning over Virginia's Dave Wyatt, 159, and Maryland's John Keys, 166, winning over New York's Jaime Cordoba, 163.

The four-round opener had Virginia's Rodney Wyatt, 150, win by decision over Washington, D.C.'s Jose Ortiz, 146.

Promoter: DeWayne Chambers.
Referees: Levy & Wollesen.
Judges: Whitestone, Favin & Beavers.
Timekeeper: Hall & Peters.
Physicians: Pulizzi & Branch.
(4-16-88)

MEXICO

BAJA CALIFORNIA

▶**ENSENADA**—Julian "Pato" Benitez bested Jaime Castorena in 12 rounds to win the Baja California state junior welterweight crown.
(12-18-87)

▶**ENSENADA**—Lightweight Ramon Marchena demolished Juan Guardado in 47 seconds.

Featherweight Bautisto Marchena KO'd Gaspar Ramirez in two.
(3-11-88)

▶**TIJUANA**—Juan Jose "Dinamita" Estrada won over Luis Espinosa of the Philippines in 12 to retain his WBC international bantamweight title.
(3-14-88)

▶**LOS CABOS**—Francisco "Chango" Carballo TKO'd Francisco "Canas" Hernandez in nine rounds to retain his Mexican middleweight championship.
(3-18-88)

▶**MEXICALI**—Eduardo "Fili" Montoya upped his record to 9-0 with a 10-round, unanimous decision over Jose "Latipu" Flores, featherweights.

Flyweight Isaias Zamudio TKO'd Jose "Ranita" Robles in two.

Marco Antonio "Cachorrito" Ramirez TKO'd Jaime Reyes in the fourth of a bantamweight bout.
(3-4-88)

▶**TIJUANA**—WBA lightweight titleholder **Julio Cesar Chavez** destroyed Nicky Perez in three rounds of a non-title bout.

Humberto "Chiquita" Gonzalez KO'd Jose Luis "Gringa" Zepeda in the sixth round to retain his Mexican junior flyweight title.

Herminio Delgado won the Mexican lightweight crown with an 11-round stoppage of Juan "Bull Terry" Soberanes.

Jesus "Bebe" Gallardo whipped veteran Andres "Pantera" Ramirez in a 10-round middleweight contest.
(3-5-88)

▶**MEXICALI**—Javier "Changa" Marquez won by unanimous decision over Rafael "Gato" Morfin to regain the Mexican featherweight championship.

Leonardo "Pichon" Valdez beat Mauricio Beltran in 10, featherweights.

Lightweight Roberto Rosiles chilled veteran Jose Luis Sobera in seven.

Bantamweight Jose Luis Vasquez halted Alberto Martinez in two.

Lightweight Salvador Lucero won by disqualification over Roberto Chavez, the brother of **Julio Cesar Chavez**.

▶**LA PAZ**—Juan Manuel "Minuto" Geraldo notched his 14th knockout with a one-round finish of Martin Osuna.
(2-26-88)

CAMPECHE

▶**CARMEN**—Arturo Lopez won a split decision over Jorge Jimenez Loeza (Schmeling II) in a 10-round lightweight match.

Geronimo Nieto whipped Luis Enrique Caceres in a 10-round bantam contest.
(3-18-88)

CHIAPAS

▶**TAPACHULA**—Victor Manuel Rabanales won over Abraham Barrientos in a 10-round bantamweight scrap.
(3-18-88)

GUERRERO

▶**ACAPULCO**—Agustin Camacho TKO'd Margarito Rodriguez in the third round, lightweights.

Bantamweight Leonardo Cano whipped Daniel Pineda in 10.
(3-4-88)

▶**ACAPULCO**—Ray Cisneros stopped Gerardo "Toro" Sandoval in the eighth round of a featherweight contest.

Juan Carlos Chavez won by disqualification over Marco Antonio Salazar in another featherweight bout.
(3-11-88)

FEDERAL DISTRICT

▶**MEXICO CITY**—Valente Flores won a split decision over Antonio "Gato" Flores in a 10-round flyweight match.

Julio Pliego TKO'd Antonio "Caico" Medina in the second round, bantamweights.

Bantamweight Alejandro Zarate stopped Porfirio Hernandez in one.

Featherweight Alejandro Reyes stopped German Serrano in one.
(3-5-88)

▶**MEXICO CITY**—Javier "Momin" Barcenas TKO'd Jaime "Tigre" Escobar in the eighth round of a featherweight bout.

Lino "Kanazawa" Tellez KO'd Pedro "Peter" Serrano in the sixth, featherweights.

Lightweight Javier "Soldado" Garrillo stopped Fernando "Banana" Casteneda in three.

Lightweight Luis Vera stopped Raul Lopez in two.
(3-19-88)

▶**MEXICO CITY**—Veteran middleweight Jose Duarte chilled Jose de Anda in two.

Jose Bernal, cousin of former WBC flyweight titleholder **Gabriel Bernal**, stopped Heraclio Sanchez in the second round of a lightweight bout.

Jose Luis Bueno stopped Sabino Torres in two rounds, flyweights.

Featherweight Blado Aguelles TKO'd Pablo Ramirez in one.
(3-26-88)

JALISCO

▶**GUADALAJARA**—Roberto "Karateka" Rios TKO'd veteran Diego Avila in the sixth round, featherweights.
(3-18-88)

SONORA

▶**NAVOJOA**—Lightweight Tony Contreras won a technical decision in seven rounds over Jesus "Petrolero" Gallardo.
(3-4-88)

TAMAULIPAS

▶**REYNOSA**—Raymundo "Battling" Torres Jr. flattened Ruben Delgado in the sixth round of a middleweight bout.

Bantamweight Sergio "Popeye" Cornejo TKO'd Pepillo Morales in eight.
(3-25-88)

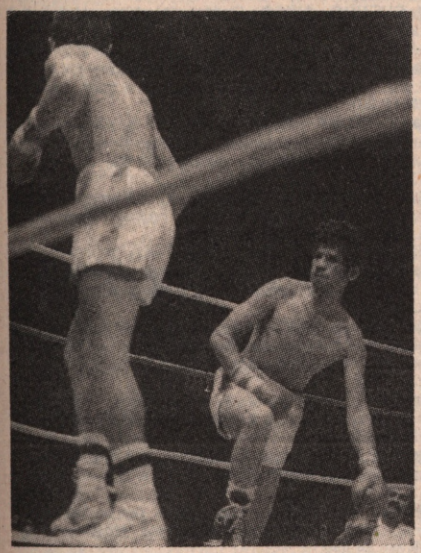
VERACRUZ

▶**MINATITLAN**—**Jacinto "Maravilla" Serrano** won a technical decision over former Mexican junior flyweight champion **Jorge Cano** in five.

Gerardo Sanchez KO'd "Pantera" Lopez in six, featherweights.
(3-19-88)

▶**POZA RICA**—Ricardo Aguilar embalmed Mario "Flit" Perez in two, flyweights.
(3-11-88)
▶**POZA RICA**—Just Zuniga decisioned Jorge "Estudiante" Rivera in a 10-round flyweight bout.
(4-1-88)

YUCATAN



Fernando Varguez (left) on his way to a 10-round decision over Rafael Alonso in Merida.

▶**MERIDA**—Fernando "Candelita II" Varguez won a unanimous, 10-round decision over veteran flyweight Rafael "Raton" Alonso.

Lightweight Oscar Gallegos stopped Pedro Garcia in four.

Juan Diego Arjona whipped Leonardo Lenisman in an eight-round flyweight match.

Juan "Panterita" Gonzalez stopped Rodrigo "Avispa" Lopez in six, flyweights.

Flyweight Alcibiades Gallegos TKO'd David Zapata in six.
(3-19-88)

▶**NOTES:** Former WBC bantamweight titleholder **Carlos Zarate** announced his retirement in Mexico City March 19. Zarate won the WBC title, stopping Rodolfo Martinez in 1976, and defended it successfully nine times before losing to **Lupe Pintor** in 1979. During that stretch he tried for the WBC super bantamweight title, but was starched by **Wilfredo Gomez** in five rounds. After losing to Pintor, Zarate retired for almost seven years. His comeback culminated in a shot at **Jeff Fenech** for Fenech's WBC super bantamweight title. Zarate was losing badly when a collision of heads cut Fenech and forced a stoppage, Fenech winning by technical decision. But Zarate got another chance, this time for the title vacated by Fenech, against **Daniel Zaragoza** February 29. The 36-year-old Zarate was beaten soundly and stopped in the 10th round. He finished his career with 59 victories and just four defeats.

EDUARDO AMER

CENTRAL AMERICA

BAHAMAS

▶**NASSAU**—Poinciana Arena—**Ray Minus Jr.** recaptured the vacant British Commonwealth bantamweight

WORLD RATINGS
BY THE WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION
(As of May 1, 1988)

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champion
Mike Tyson (US)
1. Frank Bruno (England)
2. Tyrell Biggs (US)
3. Pinklon Thomas (US)
4. Trevor Berbick (US)
5. Francesco Damiani (Italy)
6. Adilson Rodriguez (Brazil)
7. Tim Witherspoon (US)
8. Jose Ribalta (US)
9. Razor Ruddock (Canada)
10. Orlin Norris (US)

JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champion
Evander Holyfield (US)
1. Sammy Reeson (England)
2. Bert Cooper (US)
3. Carlos DeLeon (Puerto Rico)
4. Toufik Balbouli (France)
5. Michael Greer (US)
6. Patrick Lumumba (Uganda)
7. Ossie Ocasio (Puerto Rico)
8. Sherman Griffin (US)
9. Glenn McCrory (England)
10. Olian Alexander (US)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champion
Virgil Hill (US)
1. Tony Willis (US)
2. Leslie Stewart (Trinidad)
3. Tom Collins (England)
4. Jean-Marie Emebe (Cameroon)
5. Ramzi Hassan (US)
6. Bobby Czyz (US)
7. Joe Lasisi (US)
8. Willy Featherstone (Canada)
9. Richard Caramanolis (France)
10. Marvin Johnson (US)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champion
Chong-Pal Park (Korea)
1. Fulgencio Obelmejias (Venezuela)
2. Lindell Holmes (US)
3. Victor Cordova (Panama)
4. Chris Reid (US)
5. James Kinchen (US)
6. Jay Strickland (US)
7. Frankie Minton (US)
8. Nicky Walker (US)
9. Wang-Sup Lee (Korea)
10. Vincent Boulware (US)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champion
Sumbu Kalambay (Italy)
1. Marvin Hagler (US)
2. Michael Nunn (US)
3. Herol Graham (England)
4. Iran Barkley (US)
5. Mike McCallum (Jamaica)
6. Roberto Duran (Panama)
7. Juan Roldan (Argentina)
8. Doug DeWitt (US)
9. Robbie Sims (US)
10. Michael Olajide (Canada)

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champion
Julian Jackson (Virgin Islands)
1. Buster Drayton (US)
2. Donald Curry (US)
3. Darrin Van Horn (US)
4. Carlos Elliott (Japan)
5. Milton McCrory (US)
6. Robert Hines (US)
7. John Mugabi (Uganda)
8. Carlos Santos (Puerto Rico)
9. Jose Varela (Germany)
10. Jun-Sok Hwang (Korea)

WELTERWEIGHTS
Champion
Marlon Starling (US)
1. Tomas Molinares (Colombia)
2. Yung-Kil Chung (Korea)
3. Mark Breland (US)
4. Maurice Blocker (US)
5. Rollin Williams (US)
6. Danny Garcia (Puerto Rico)
7. Seung-Soon Lee (Korea)
8. Elfisio Galici (Italy)
9. Glenwood Brown (US)
10. Fujio Ozaki (Japan)

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Champion
Juan Coggi (Argentina)
1. Sang-Ho Lee (Korea)
2. Meldrick Taylor (US)
3. Harold Brazier (US)
4. Engels Pedroza (Venezuela)
5. Akinobu Hiranaka (Japan)
6. Kyung-Duk Ahn (Korea)
7. Eun-Shik Lim (Korea)
8. Vincent Releford (US)
9. Tek N'Kalankete (Zaire)
10. Tsuyoshi Hamada (Japan)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champion
Julio Cesar Chavez (Mexico)
1. John Duplessis (US)
2. Pernell Whitaker (US)
3. Edwin Rosario (Puerto Rico)
4. Rafael Pineda (Colombia)
5. Rodolfo Aguilar (Panama)
6. Primo Ramos (Mexico)
7. Terrence Alli (Guyana)
8. Alberto Cortes (Argentina)
9. Juan Nazario (Puerto Rico)
10. Gert Bo Jacobsen (Denmark)

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champion
Brian Mitchell (South Africa)
1. Mario Martinez (Mexico)
2. Tyrone Jackson (US)
3. Mario Miranda (Colombia)
4. Lupe Suarez (US)
5. Jose Rivera (Puerto Rico)
6. Jean-Baptiste Mendy (France)
7. Jackie Beard (US)
8. Harold Knight (US)
9. Jim McDonnell (England)
10. Sin-Heung Lee (Korea)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champion
Antonio Esparragoza (Venezuela)
1. Jose Marmolejos (Panama)
2. Valerio Nati (Italy)
3. Tyrone Downes (Barbados)
4. Maurizio Stecca (Italy)
5. Marcos Villasana (Mexico)
6. Hector Lopez (Mexico)
7. Victor Callejas (Puerto Rico)
8. Mitsuru Sugiya (Japan)
9. Jean-Marc Renard (Belgium)
10. Chan-Yong Park (Korea)

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champion
Bernardo Pinango (Venezuela)
1. Julio Gervacio (Dominican Republic)
2. James Pipps (US)
3. Louie Espinoza (US)
4. Seung-Hoon Lee (Korea)
5. Jose Sanabria (Dominican Republic)
6. Tommy Valoy (Dominican Republic)
7. Loris Stecca (Italy)
8. Juan Jose Estrada (Mexico)
9. Mark Horikoshi (Japan)
10. Pedro Decima (Argentina)

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champion
Wilfredo Vasquez (Puerto Rico)
1. Kaokor Galaxy (Thailand)
2. Edgar Monserrat (Panama)
3. Cardenio Ulloa (Chile)
4. Raul Perez (Mexico)
5. Takuya Muguruma (Japan)
6. Frankie Duarte (US)
7. Kenny Mitchell (US)
8. Hurley Snead (US)
9. Paul Banke (US)
10. Enrique Sanchez (Dominican Republic)

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champion
Kaosai Galaxy (Thailand)
1. Kiyoshi Hatanaka (Japan)
2. Alberto Castro (Colombia)
3. Kong Payakaroon (Thailand)
4. Thanomsak Sithbaobay (Thailand)
5. Santos Laciar (Argentina)
6. Sugar Baby Rojas (Colombia)
7. Byung-Kwan Chung (Korea)
8. Sung-Kil Moon (Korea)
9. Chiaki Kobayashi (Japan)
10. Chang-Ho Choi (Korea)

FLYWEIGHTS
Champion
Fidel Bassa (Colombia)
1. Hilario Zapata (Panama)
2. Duke McKenzie (England)
3. Miguel Mercedes (Dominican Republic)
4. Orlando Canizales (US)
5. Paul Gonzalez (US)
6. Yul-Woo Lee (Korea)
7. Adrian Roman (Argentina)
8. Kenji Matsumura (Japan)
9. Leopard Tamakuma (Japan)
10. Richard Clarke (Jamaica)

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Champion
Myung-Woo Yuh (Korea)
1. Jose DeJesus (Puerto Rico)
2. Mario DeMarco (Argentina)
3. Hideyuki Ohashi (Japan)
4. Humberto Gonzalez (Mexico)
5. Rodolfo Blanco (Colombia)
6. Wilibardo Salazar (Mexico)
7. Francisco Tejedor (Colombia)
8. Yong-Kang Kim (Korea)
9. Carlos Orobio (Panama)
10. Putt Ohyuthanakorn (Thailand)

MINI FLYWEIGHTS
Champion
Rafael Gamez (Venezuela)
1. Bong-Jun Kim (Korea)
2. Tony DeLuca (US)
3. Sam-Joong Lee (Korea)
4. Agustin Garcia (Colombia)
5. Jose Lagos (Argentina)
6. Ha-Shik Lim (Korea)
7. Benedicto Murillo (Panama)
8. Trang Tor Bunlert (Thailand)
9. Nico Thomas (Indonesia)
10. Tasuo Yogi (Japan)

title with a TKO of Zimbabwean champion Morgan Maphosa.

Minus, who lost a November 27 bid for **Miguel "Happy" Lora's** WBC title by unanimous decision, had first won the British Commonwealth crown in 1987, but failed to defend and was stripped. He also claims the championship of the Bahamas and the WBC's Continental Americas title, whatever that is.

The end of the scheduled 12 came at 2:57 of the third round, a frame that saw the African go down three times after being competitive the first two rounds. A right to the head put Maphosa in trouble initially, a follow-up right to the body dropping him for the first time. After Maphosa got up, Minus unloaded a body barrage that decked him again. A left-right combination finished matters after Maphosa again beat the count.

"Morgan Maphosa proved to be a very good fighter," Minus told Brent Stubbs of *The Tribune* in Nassau. "I really had to start thinking and setting up my shots and work that body a little bit."

The disappointed Maphosa told Stubbs, "I came all the way from Africa and I trained hard for this fight, but then when I went into the ring I just didn't listen to my coach and I didn't follow what he had to say."

Maphosa's coach, American trainer Tom Brunette, added, "Morgan came here with a purpose in mind and if he didn't, he would not have got up after that body shot the second time. We know that Ray is probably the hardest hitting bantamweight in the world, so we tried to stay away from his attack. But Morgan was just too flat-footed."

On the undercard, heavyweight Pat Strachan won a unanimous, eight-round decision over North Carolina's Craig Paine.

Local Ernie Barr, who has campaigned as a heavyweight and light heavyweight, returned after a lengthy absence to stop Panama's Adolpho Morell in three rounds. The stoppage was caused by Morell's badly damaged left eye.
(4-30-88)

JAMAICA

▶**KINGSTON**—Guinness Gym—The world-renowned firm, Guinness Ltd., has stepped up its effort to further improve boxing in Jamaica.

Extensive improvements have been made to the firm's 30-year-old gym so that it may adequately accommodate smaller shows with the emphasis on featuring local fighters.

The first such show saw an exciting and controversial bout between Alston Cameron and Ray Pottinger, the winner to challenge Jamaican welterweight champion Paul Davis. Cameron received a split decision, but the verdict evoked a mixed response from those in attendance, many booing and shouting "hometown decision" as Cameron was just about born and bred at the gym, where he is a top favorite.

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The fight was close and tough to judge as the tide shifted from round to round and even within most rounds. Cameron was clearly ahead after four rounds, at which stage Pottinger took over and drew even by Round Eight. Each tried to gain the edge over the last two rounds, but neither was able to dominate and a fairer decision probably would have been a draw.

The undercard saw Muhammad Dawes stop Alton Sterling in the fourth round of a welterweight match.

Barrington White stopped Howard Shaw in the first round of a heavyweight match.

Promoter: Don McBean.

GILLIE CAMPBELL

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

▶**SAN SALVADOR DE JUJUY**—Eduardo Galan halted Tomas Mino in nine, lightweights.
(2-12-88)

▶**SALTA**—South American welterweight champion Miguel Angel "Puma" Arroyo stopped Brazilian Jose Bererra in four.

On the undercard, featherweight prospect Manuel Billalla outpointed lightweight Jose Cubillas in 10.
(2-12-88)

▶**MAR DEL PLATA**—Former two-time WBA flyweight titleholder **Santos "Falucho" Laciar** halted Juan Ivalo in six rounds, bantamweights.
(2-17-88)

▶**MAR PEL PLATA**—Former two-time WBA flyweight titleholder **Santos "Falucho" Laciar** halted Juan Ivalo in six rounds, bantamweights.
(2-17-88)

▶**CATAMARCA**—WBA junior welterweight titleholder **Juan Martin "Latigo" Coggi** knocked out Mario Aroya in the sixth.
(2-19-88)

▶**PINAMAR**—Explosive light heavyweight Mario Melo halted veteran Eduardo Contreras in three.
(2-27-88)

▶**RIO GALLEGOS**—Argentine welterweight champion Marcelo Di Crocce outpointed Antonio Ricardo Juarer in 10.
(3-4-88)

▶**VILLA CARLOS PAZ**—Light heavyweight prospect Marcelo Figueroa stopped Alberto Ubelar in seven.
(3-4-88)

▶**COMODORO RIVADAVIA**—Rising, unbeaten middleweight Jorge Fernando Castro knocked out Cesar Peier in the first.
(3-4-88)

▶**BUENOS AIRES—Santos "Falucho" Laciar** halted hard-hitting Chilean junior bantamweight champion Bernardo Mendoza in the third round.

It was an excellent bout and a superb performance by Laciar.

On the undercard, rustic Fidel Avila suprised Chilean featherweight champion and former WBC title challenger **Juvenal Ordenes,** clearly outclassing Ordenes in 10.
(3-5-88)

▶**BUENOS AIRES**—Jose Saldivia outpointed Alfredo Juarena in a 10-round welterweight bout, Juarena suffering his first loss.
(3-9-88)

▶**PRESIDENTE ROQUE SAENZ PENA**—Excellent flyweight prospect Carlo Gabriel Salazar knocked out Jose Cufre in the third.
(3-11-88)

▶**CORDOBA**—Unbeaten Argentine and Latin American lightweight champion Alberto Mercedes Cortes outpointed Miguel Angel Pereyna in 10.

Alberto's elder brother, Juan Carlos Cortes, retained his Cordoba state junior featherweight title by outpointing Armando Romero in 12 rounds.
(3-11-88)

▶**MENDOZA**—Jose Mario Lopez outclassed Herminio Camano in 10, featherweights.
(3-11-88)

▶**CATAMARCA**—In an upset, Adolfo Arce Rossi was outpointed by Jorge Martinez in 10, welterweights.
(3-11-88)

▶**BUENOS AIRES**—Ramon Abeldano outpointed Jorge Pino in a 10-round middleweight contest.
(3-12-88)

▶**BUENOS AIRES**—Rising featherweight Marcelo Luna knocked out Juan Astorga in the third.
(3-16-88)

▶**CORDOBA**—Jorge Dascola won by disqualification over Brazilian Emmanuele Camargo Britez to win the vacant Latin American cruiserweight title.
(3-18-88)

▶**COMODORO RIVADAVIA**—Jorge Fernando Castro continued his winning ways by halting veteran Hugo Luero in seven, middleweights.
(3-18-88)

▶**TUCUMAN**—Argentine junior lightweight champion Julio Miranda outpointed Luis F. Rodriguez in 10.
(3-18-88)

▶**BUENOS AIRES**—In a very good performance Enrique Areco outclassed South American junior middleweight champion Ramon "Potro" Ramos in 10.
(3-19-88)

▶**LONGCHAMPS**—Mario Demarco outpointed Paraguayan Ricardo Escolar in 10, flyweights.
(3-19-88)

▶**TRELEW**—Ramon Abeldano and Mario Matthysse drew in 10, middleweights.
(3-25-88)

▶**BUENOS AIRES**—Jose Lagos outpointed Hector Patri in 12 rounds to capture the Argentine junior flyweight title.
(3-26-88)

▶**GENERAL MADARIAGA**—Hard-hitter Mario Melo knocked out Sergio Merani in the ninth, light heavyweights.
(3-26-88)

▶**BUENOS AIRES**—Argentine welterweight champion Marcelo Di Crocce TKO'd Jose Luduena in nine.
(4-2-88)

▶**LINCOLN**—Hugo "Pajarito" Hernandez retained his Argentine junior welterweight title by outpointing Eduardo Benevent in 12.
(4-2-88)

▶**SAN LUIS**—Active former WBA flyweight titleholder **Santos "Falucho" Laciar** outpointed Jose Rufino Narvaez in 10, bantamweights.
(4-2-88)

▶**SANTA FE**—In the best performance of his career, risihg Julio Cesar Vazquez TKO'd veteran Ramon Abeldano in nine, middleweights.

▶**CORDOBA**—Argentine and South American flyweight champion **Adrian Roman** knocked out Chilean Jose Badilla in nine.
(4-8-88)

▶**GUALEGUAY**—Marcelo Luna outpointed Fidel Avila in 10, featherweights.
(4-8-88)

▶**BUENOS AIRES**—South American lightweight champion Jesus Romero outpointed Jose Saldivia in 10.
(4-9-88)

▶**CALETA OLIVIA**—Jorge Fernando Castro stopped Domingo Sosa in the first, middleweights.
(4-9-88)

▶**ORAN**—Lorenzo Garcia outpointed Osmar Ochoa in 10, middleweights.
(4-14-88)

▶**VILLA CARLOS PAZ**—Light heavyweight prospect Marcelo Figueroa halted veteran Eduardo Contreras in 10.
(4-15-88)

▶**MENDOZA**—Jose Mario Lopez knocked out Ruben Traba in the fifth of a featherweight bout.

On the undercard, Osvaldo Corro halted Juan Jose Cescano in five, lightweights.
(4-15-88)

▶**MAR DEL PLATA**—South American junior middleweight champion Ramon "Potro" Ramos and Osvaldo Diaz drew in 10.
(4-15-88)

▶**PICO TRUNCADO—Santos "Falucho" Laciar** outpointed Paraguayan Ricardo Escobar in 10, bantamweights.
(4-15-88)

▶**PRESIDENTE ROQUE SAENZ PENA**—Carlos Gabriel Salazar stopped Julio Olivera in three, flyweights.

Roberto Schonning outpointed Hugo Alberto Gomez in 10, bantamweights.
(4-16-88)

▶**BECCAR**—Walter Masseroni won the Argentine heavyweight title by halting Jorge Cambiasso in the third.
(4-22-88)

▶**CORDOBA**—Unbeaten Argentine and Latin American lightweight champion Alberto Mercedes Cortes halted Chilean Pedro Ray Miranda in three.
(4-22-88)

▶**BUENOS AIRES**—Ricardo Carballo and Jorge Pino drew in 10, middleweights.
(4-23-88)

RICARDO F. SOLANA

BRAZIL

▶**SALVADOR, BAHIA**—Claudemir Dias captured a 10-round decision victory over Roberto Santos to retain his Brazilian flyweight championship.
(4-8-88)

▶**SAO PAULO**—Undefeated Brazilian welterweight champion **Helio Santana** was extended 10 rounds by Argentinian Ricardo Juarez before winning a close decision.
(4-11-88)

▶**BELEM do PARA**—Daugisio Ribeiro became the new Brazilian super bantamweight champion with a fifth-round stoppage of Danilo Batista.

On the undercard, lightweights Francisco Mesquita and Geraldo Leite drew over six rounds.
(4-16-88)

▶**SAO PAULO**—Ibirapvera Gymnasium—**Francisco Tomas da Cruz** knocked out Argentinian Esteban Bustos in the 10th round of a lightweight match.

Helio Santana, undefeated Brazilian welterweight champion, was hard pressed to win a close, 10-round decision over Argentine Hugo Hector Vilte.
(3-6-88)

▶**SALVADOR, BAHIA**—Gymnasium Antonio Balbino—Undefeated Brazilian featherweight champion **Sidnei Dal Rovere** posted a 10-round decision win over Argentina's Alejandro Benavides.
(3-11-88)

▶**PORTO ALEGRE**—Rio Grande de Sul—**Adilson Rodrigues** retained his South American heavyweight championship with a seven-round knockout over Argentine challenger Jorge Cambiasso.

Brazilian middleweight champion Jose "Rocky" da Silva notched his fifth knockout in his 7-0 record, stopping Argentina's Carlos Velasquez in three rounds.

Joao Cardoso (de Oliveira), undefeated Brazilian bantamweight champion, got off the floor to capture a close, 10-round decision win over Argentina's Oscar Chamorro, who also went down.

Argentine heavyweight Jose Rodriguez won in the first round when American Clinton Barnes was disqualified.
(3-14-88)

KALED CURI

CHILE

▶**SANTIAGO**—Chilean and Latin American bantamweight champion Cardenio Ulloa outpointed mediocre Argentine Edwin Ampuedo in 10.
(2-5-88)

▶**PUNTA ARENAS**—Pedro Jofre halted Argentine Robinson Zamora in six, middleweights.
(3-31-88)

RICARDO F. SOLANA

COLOMBIA

▶**SINCELEJO**—Juvenal Berrio knocked out Jaime Macias in the second round of a bout between Colombian flyweights.
(4-16-88)

▶**SAN ANDRES ISLAND**—With a phantom blow, **Tomas Molinares** knocked out Emilo Olivera in a matchup of Colombian middleweights.

Rafael Zuniga, Cartagena, decisioned Arnovis Castro in a 10-round lightweight match.

Lightweight Jose Cortes stopped Andres Ramos in four.
(4-16-88)

▶**BARRANQUILLA**—El Pulpo—In a battle between Colombian bantamweights, Juan Rodriguez stopped Luis Berrio in the second.

Uriel Londono, Medellin, outpointed Jesus Gelles, Barranquilla, in a six-round flyweight bout.

Welterweight Manuel Salas outpointed Wilson Rivas over four.

Flyweight Ismael de Avial outpointed Jorge Hurtado in four.

Featherweight Juan Gomez decisioned Alfonso de Leon in four.

Orlando Marimon KO'd Jose Mena in the second of a featherweight bout.

Attendance: 250.
(4-22-88)

▶**BARRANQUILLA**—Las Nieves Free Air Cinema—In a scheduled eight, Daniel Blanco iced Wilson Fontalvo in Round Two, featherweights.

Flyweight Alvaro Mercado TKO'd Jose Salazar in two.

Gonzalo Saldana won a four-round verdict over Andel Guerra, featherweights.

Featherweight Robinson Quiroz outpointed Mauricio Bernal in six.

Libarto Herrera and Claudio Salgado drew in a welterweight eight.
(4-23-88)

LUIS A. GONZALEZ V

GUYANA

▶**FRENCH GUIANA**—Cayenne Sports Hall—Michael Benjamin, Guyana's lightweight champion, powered his way to a fourth-round stoppage of Phillip Binante of France.

The skillful and hard-hitting Binante held his own the first two rounds as he tried to stave off Benjamin's aggressive body attack. But Benjamin's power started to pay dividends as early as the third round as Binante, smarting from a bloody nose and visibly shaken by Benjamin's powerful body shots, barely managed to last the frame.

Sensing victory, Benjamin pounced on his opponent at the fourth bell and quickly had the Frenchman's handsome features a bloody mess as he dropped Binante four times. The referee mercifully came to Binante's rescue just prior to the Frenchman's seconds tossing in the towel.

The victory left Benjamin 13-1 with nine knockouts, while Binante, stopped for the first time, fell to 16-3 with seven knockouts.
(4-29-88)

▶**GEORGETOWN**—National Sports Hall—Wayne Harris regained the junior middleweight title he lost to Len Blackmoore in June, 1986, by winning a controversial, split decision over Patrick Farley in a lackluster, 12-round fight.

Farley used good strategy in staying close to Harris, thus nullifying Harris' longer reach and good punching power, while Harris seemed content to tie his man up while waiting for the opportunity to fight on the outside.

The scoring of the judges reflected the closeness of the contest, Harold Duncan (115-114) and Ulric Busby (116-112) carding for Harris, while Bertram Adams saw it 116-115, Farley.

Harris is 12-2 with five KOs, while Farley drops to 4-2 with three KOs.

Fitzroy Davidson got sweet revenge when he won a unanimous decision against Gordon Carew. When they met last, Carew was given a decision which many felt should have gone to Davidson, who improved to 11-12 as Carew dropped to 5-4.

Gary Richardson survived four knockdowns in the first three rounds, but surprisingly came back to put up a sterling performance in losing an eight-round, unanimous decision to Conrad Hunte, who improved to 7-3-1 as Richardson slipped to 3-2.

Joseph Murray improved to 6-0 with four KOs, winning a unanimous, eight-round decision over Ray Jones, who fell to 3-4. But Murray failed to take advantage of his opportunities, allowing a shaken Jones to survive the sixth round and two knockdowns in Round Seven.
(5-1-88)

WILL R. BOODHOO

READ THE RING

PARAGUAY

▶**ASUNCION**—Paraguayan, South American and WBC international middleweight titleholder Juan Carlos Giminez outpointed Argentine Horacio Ruben Silva in 10.
(3-22-88)

RICARDO F. SOLANA

URUGUAY

▶**PAYSANDU**—Rodrigo Benech knocked out Juan Alberto Barrero in the first round to win the vacant Uruguayan light heavyweight title.
(3-30-88)

RICARDO F. SOLANA

EUROPE

DENMARK

▶**COPENHAGEN**—Taking an eight-round decision over American Marvin Garris, former European lightweight champion **Gert Bo Jacobsen** stretched his undefeated string to 27.

Until the final round, Jacobsen had been rather monotonous in his dominance. In that frame, he tried for a knockout, but it almost cost him when Garris unleashed a right that staggered the Dane backward.

Jacobsen, obviously hurt, grabbed Garris and clinched his way through the last remaining seconds.

Local lightweight Racheed Lawal also remained unbeaten, chalking up win No. 10 with a majority decision over Canada's Tony Pep. The decision was booed heartily, and it appeared Pep deserved no less than a draw. In the last round, Pep nailed Lawal with a good right, staggering the Dane. The referee stepped in, but did not issue a count. Instead, he merely looked at Lawal for almost 10 seconds before waving the fighters to continue. By that time, Lawal had collected his senses.

Local favorite Eyup Can finished with a cut right eyebrow and a completely closed left eye, but still took a unanimous, eight-round bantamweight verdict over Scotland's Donnie Hood. Can was also decked in the second, but the verdict in his favor seemed just in spite of his appearance.

Lars Lund Jensen won a six-round decision over England's Rocky Lawlor in a rather one-sided lightweight bout.

Michael Madsen finished strong to gain a four-round decision over England's Terry Duffus in a heavyweight bout.

In another heavyweight contest, Norway's Magne Havnaa decisioned Belgium's Yves Monsieur over eight.
(5-12-88)

GERMANY

▶**KORBACH**—AS Boxteam Nordhessen had a five-bout card that provided a good evening's boxing.

Heavyweight Walter Eberling won a four-round decision over fellow-German Jurgen Gries.

German welterweight Marco Unverdruss received a six-round decision over Yugoslavia's Marco

Mahmutovic, though a draw probably would have been a fairer verdict.

Welterweight Salvador Yanez, German-born Chilean, stopped Diavid Mahmutovic of Yugoslavia, the towel being thrown in after the latter had taken three counts in Round Four.

Bozon Haule, Tansania, decisioned southpaw Michel Simeon of Belgium in an eight-round middleweight bout.

German-based Turk Nyasi Aytekin shared a middleweight eight with Belgium's Jimmy Gourad.

Promoter: AS Boxteem Nordhessen.
Matchmaker: Olaf Schroder.
Attendance: 300.
Referee: Norbert Grosch.
(4-23-88)

▶**COLOGNE**—Sartory Sale—A crowd of 1,000 or more saw local 25-year-old **Ralf Rocchigiani** outscore **Marvin Camel**, who has held the WBC, IBF, USBA and Nevada state cruiserweight titles, in an eight-round bout.

In this contest, the German probably learned more than he had in his other 28 bouts put together. He came out a clear winner, but came under fire and was criticized for letting the American off the hook on several occasions. On the other hand, taking unnecessary risks against the clever veteran would have been dangerous play, for one could not always establish whether or not Camel was really hurt or just fooling.

Camel has several good fights left in him against youngsters such as Rocchigiani, who can only improve by meeting a fighter as knowledgeable as Camel, who knows every move in the book. He could have been hurt in Round Two, and after Round Seven, bleeding from a cut right eyebrow, he headed to a neutral corner searching for his seconds.

Rocchigiani has now made 29 starts, losing just two. Camel has 48 wins in 55 tries.

German cruiserweight champion, 38-year-old Klaus Winter, knocked out Yugoslavia's Mladen Grubesitz in just 1:50. Grubesitz has won five of his 18 bouts, while Winter has won five of his six inside the distance.

Silver medalist from the Los Angeles Olympics, Peter Konyegwachie of Nigeria ran his unbeaten string to eight when the 22-year-old lightweight knocked out American Mario Salazar at 1:06 of Round Seven. Salazar, a 22-year-old southpaw who had won 22 of his 30 bouts, made his feet, but German referee Artur Ellensohn continued counting.

Commonwealth super featherweight champion, 33-year-old John Sichula, Zambia, knocked out Yoel Segura, Mexico, with 1:16 gone in Round Five. The 23-year-old Segura was warned several times for hitting with the inside portion of his gloves. He took a standing count in the fourth frame and in the fifth was knocked down, taking several minutes to recover. Sichula has won 21 of 24 starts, while Segura has 14 wins in 19 tries.

Nelson Alex Alves, 27-year-old German-born Chilean heavyweight, is unbeaten in seven tries after knocking out Briton Byron Pullen at 2:17 of Round Two. The Briton, with 10 wins in 12 bouts, was a little out of his depth, but a loss to Alves, a champion in the making, is no disgrace. Body shots did the major damage.

Making his debut at age 26, light heavyweight Stephan Nordin beat 33-year-old Mirko Bogdanovich of Yugoslavia in less than a round. Bogdanovich, who has three wins in nine starts, was cut so badly over the left eyebrow, the ringside physician called it off in just 2:06.

The "walkout" between British light heavyweight Glazz Campbell and local-based Turk Agamali Yilderim over eight rounds was, to most, the bout of the evening. The 27-year-old Campbell rallied from a bad start — almost falling through the ropes to take a count in the opening round — to pull out a draw with the 30-year-old Yilderim, who has lived in Germany the last 18 years. Campbell has won eight of 13, while Yilderim has 10 losses dotting his 32-bout resume.

Promoter: Wilfried Sauerland.
Matchmakers: Jean Marcel Nartz & Ebby Thust.
Referees: Kurt Stroer, Norbert Grosch & Artur Ellensohn.
Physician: Teuber.
Attendance: 1,000.
(4-25-88)

▶**BERLIN**—Southpaw **Jose Varela**, born is Spain but now a naturalized German, was the most impressive performer on this card, though he took five rounds to stop veteran American Sammy Floyd.

The Kentucky middleweight was in trouble in the opening round, going to the canvas. Third man Uwe Ullmann ruled a slip, but when he got up, Floyd was sent to the boards again, this time for an eight count.

In the second round, the old fox used the ring to get himself back together again and did, in fact, tie up the local boy. But in the fifth, a left hook to the liver sent Floyd to one knee, and he remained there to be counted out.

Varela, who has just one loss in 32 bouts, is a cool, brutal bruiser who paws with his right, then knocks the stuffing out of opponents with his left. The German is scheduled to meet the winner of the WBC light middleweight title match between **Gianfranco Rosi** of Italy and **Donald Curry** of the United States.

Ralf Rocchigiani stopped 31-year-old German-based Turk Vedat Akova in two rounds. After taking a count, the Turkish heavyweight, still groggy, landed on the seat of his pants from a left-right combination and, as referee Werner Kasimir took up his count, the towel was thrown in. Fan violence is by no means a strictly Latin phenomenon and, while the German was disposing of the Turk in the ring, Germans and Turks in the audience were throwing punches. Although Akova, whose last bout was in May, 1986, was second-division material, he did come out of his shell to show some killer instinct. Unlike brother Graciano, the IBF super middleweight titleholder, Ralf is not full of fire, brimstone and neanderthal savagery.

Ex-DDR amateur, 18-year-old Silvio Mieckley, whose nose bled from the second round on, boxed a four-round draw with Yugoslavia's Mehmet Zolic.

Welterweight Mario Dimitroff, kick-boxing champion of Europe and Germany in 1986 and holder of the world title in 1988, made his pro debut, stopping Mirsad Mahmutovic of Yugoslavia in two rounds. In the opening frame, Mahmutovic took a count from a left and right to the face, and he bled from a slight cut above the left eyebrow. Unable to get out of trouble in the second round, Mahmutovic fell to one knee and, as referee Kasimir started his count, the towel was thrown in.

Middleweight Andre Wissenbach, returning to the ring after a six-year layoff, drew a four-rounder with Refik Gocek who, like Dimitroff, was a kick-boxer and ruled Europe at light middle. Wissenbach rested on one knee for a count of eight in the third round and finished badly soiled with a discoloration around his left eye and shoulder and a slight cut on the bridge of his nose. In the interval before Round Two, it was discovered that Wissenbach was wearing six-ounce gloves and the bout was delayed several minutes while eight-ouncers were fitted. The bout was a real war, and the courage and heart of the two boxers won over the 500 paying customers.

Lightweight Senturk Ozdemir, a local-based Turk, outscored Yugoslav Dusan Radosavljevic over four rounds. Radosavljevic took a count of eight in the opening round, but from then on held his own with the Turk. There was another delay when Ozdemir was sent back to the dressing room to get his protective cup!

Chilean middleweight Salvador Yanez, based in Germany, outpointed Tritmir Jandrek of Yugoslavia over six rounds in one of the card's more polished bouts.

Middleweight Mike Wissenbach lost a six-rounder to southpaw Horace Fleary, a local-based Brit who perhaps took the vote with his strong finish.

Promoter: Boxing Team Berlin.
Matchmaker: Olaf Schroder.
Referees: Uwe Ullmann & Werner Kasimir.
Physician: Burchardt.
Timekeepers: Holz & Obermeyer.
Attendance: 520.
(5-12-88)

JACK TREE

ITALY

▶**MILAN**—Making his first successful defense of his European heavyweight championship, Italy's **Francesco Damiani,** 228, stopped Dutch challenger John Emmen, 202¾, in three rounds of a scheduled 12.

Emmen entered the bout with just 11 wins and was out of the contest as early as the second round when Damiani shook him with a right uppercut. With Emmen wobbling in the third, British referee John Coyle called it over.

Damiani did suffer a blackened left eye, claiming the wound was the result of a first-round thumb by Emmen.

Maurizio Stecca, 125½, stopped Fidel Martinez, 124, in five.

Kamel Bou Ali, 134½, won by foul over Jose Mosqueda, 132½, in the third.

Stefano Cassi, 134¾, stopped Fernando Blanco, 137¼, in the seventh.

Roberto Lauretta, 135½, won in the third when the corner of Robert Taton, 141, threw in the towel.

Giuseppe Perrella, 136½, decisioned Fathi Kaabi, 136½, over six.

Michele Renna, 164¼, won in the third when Sid Conteh, 159¾, was disqualified for fouling.
(4-22-88)

▶**ROSETO DEGLI ABRUZZI**—Argentina's **Juan Martin Coggi** found the first defense of his WBA junior welterweight title an easy one as he knocked out Korea's Sang-Ho Lee at 1:35 of the second round of the scheduled 12.

The southpaw stunned Lee with a right hook, then unleashed a barrage of head and body shots that lifted his record to 34-1-2 with 21 knockouts. Lee lost for the second time against 45 wins.
(5-7-88)

SPAIN

▶**MADRID**—Scala Melia—Traveling South African **Brian Mitchell** once again retained his WBA super featherweight title, this time outpointing Puerto Rico's Jose Rivera over 12.

Making his fifth successful defense, Mitchell was meeting Rivera for the second time, the pair having fought a 15-round draw in San Juan in February, 1987. This time wasn't as close, though Mitchell had to settle for a split verdict.

As he did in their first meeting, Rivera floored Mitchell in Round Two. But as he did in their initial match, Mitchell got up to regain control.

On the undercard, Spanish middleweight Alfonso Redondo took an eight-round nod over Britain's Michael Harris, a decision booed by Redondo's home crowd.
(4-26-88)

UNITED KINGDOM

▶**NORTHAMPTON**—Jack Solomon's Sporting Club—There were only three entrants for the 2,000-pound novice heavyweight competition won by Manny Burgo of North Shields.

In the final, Burgo, 212, outpointed Ian Nelson, Manchester, 217, referee John Coyle scoring 59½-57½ after six.

In the semifinal, Burgo outpointed Terry Lewis, 209, Manchester, referee Terry O'Connor scoring 30-28½ after three.

In the only other bout, Shaun Cummins, 155, Leicester, outpointed Antonio Fernandez, 155, Birmingham, referee Coyle casting it 59½-57½ after six.
(3-7-88)

▶**NOTTINGHAM**—Albany Hotel—Gary Maxwell, 133, Nottingham, outpointed John Bennie, 131, Hurlford, referee John Keane scoring 79-78 after eight.

Darrell Pettit, 130, Alfreton, outpointed debutant Steve Bowles, 129, Doncaster, referee Keane casting 59½-58½ after six.

Adrian Din, 152, Nottingham, stopped debutant Mark Botham, 146, referee Keane intervening at 1:32 of Round One after Botham had been down.

Jim Beckett, 147, Newham, outpointed Rocky Maxwell, 147, Nottingham, referee Keane's card showing 60-58½ after six.
(3-7-88)

▶**MANCHESTER**—Anglo American Sporting Club—Kevin Plant, 142, Doncaster, stopped Ray Taylor, 143, Great Harwood, referee Brian Hogg intervening at 0:35 of Round Two in a scheduled eight twos after Taylor had been floored.

Darren McKenna, 178, Alfreton, beat debutant David Jono, 180, Salford, who was disqualified in Round Three of a scheduled six twos for "persistent carelessness with his head," according to referee Keith Garner.

Steven Pike, 128, Peterborough, outpointed Gerry McBride, 125, Manchester, referee Hogg scoring 59-58½ after six twos.

Humphrey Harrison, 142, Manchester, stopped Eddy Collins, 146, Peterborough, referee Garner calling a halt at 1:37 of Round Two in a scheduled six twos.
(3-7-88)

▶**HOVE**—Town Hall—Commonwealth light welterweight champion Tony Laing achieved the fastest victory of his career by knocking out Stanley Jones, Swansea, with a right hand in just 20 seconds.

Both Jones, a substitute, and Laing weighed inside 142 in the bout refereed by Larry O'Connell.

Ian Bulloch, 192, Bolsover, outpointed Danny Lawford, 188, Manchester, referee O'Connell casting 79-78½ after eight.

Chris Eubanks, 163, Brighton, outpointed Winston Burnett, 172, Cardiff, referee Jack Snipe scoring 60-57 after six. Burnett was fighting his 90th bout.

Johnny Uphill, 164, Hastings, had it all downhill, stopping Keith Butler, 169, Clacton, referee Paul Hillman intervening in just 45 seconds of a scheduled six twos.

Debutant Tony Bernard, 128½, Bermondsey, stopped Chris Cooper, 128, Torquay, referee Hillman calling a halt at 1:00 of Round Two of a scheduled six twos with Cooper injured about the eye and under pressure.
(3-7-88)

▶**STOKE**—European Sporting Club—Darren Hobson, 163½, Leeds, made it nine straight by outpointing sub Darren Burford, 162, Bermondsey, referee Paul Thomas scoring 80-76½ after eight twos.

Ian Priest, 210, Alfreton, avenged a previous defeat by outpointing Rocky Burton, 236, Bedworth, referee Thomas casting it 59-58½ after six twos.

Michael Armstrong, 118, Manchester, stopped Gypsy Johnny, 118, Rhyl, referee Thomas intervening at 1:05 of Round Two of a scheduled six twos after Johnny had been down three times.

Brian Cullen, 140, Manchester, outpointed Steve Hogg, 143, over six twos, referee Thomas casting 59-58½.

Armstrong and Cullen were in a car that broke down on the way to the European Sporting Club. Armstrong ran four miles to the nearest phone and arrangements were made for them to be picked up and driven to the hall.
(3-7-88)

▶**MANCHESTER**—The 400 Club—Emsley Bingham, 147, Manchester, outpointed Kelvin Mortimer, 143, Trebanog, referee Ron Hackett scoring 80-77½ after eight.

Sugar Gibiliru, 141, drew with Pat Barrett, 139, over eight. Ref, Hackett.

In a clash of debutants, Paul Hendrick, 154, stopped Mark Hibbs, 157, Swansea, referee Phil Cowsill halting matters at 1:59 of Round Three.

Stephen Phillips, 142, outpointed Mike Calderwood, 144, referee Cowsill scoring 59½-57½ after six.
(3-7-88)

▶**BIRMINGHAM**—Arden Sporting Club—Peter Bradley, 131, Glasgow, outpointed Karl Taylor, 132, referee Jim Pridding scoring 79½-78 after eight twos.

Paul Wesley, 160, Birmingham, drew with Paul Murray, 161, over eight twos.

Joe Corcoran, 149, a debutant from Alfreton, stopped Barry Messam, 148, Nottingham, referee Bryan Arnott intervening at 1:30 of Round Two in a scheduled six twos after Messam had been floored.

Jimmy Vincent, 127, Birmingham, kayoed Billy Cawley, 130, Birmingham, in Round One of a scheduled six twos.
(2-29-88)

▶**LONDON**—National Sporting Club—Kevin Pritchard, 128, Liverpool, stopped Rocky Lawlor, 129, Birmingham, referee Mike Jacobs intervening at 2:28 of the eighth and final round after Lawlor had been down.

Danny Porter, 113, Hitchin, stopped Dave Jones, 114, Port Talbot, referee Paddy Sower calling a halt at 1:52 of Round Four of a scheduled six twos.

G.W. Gully, 147½, Birmingham, outpointed Gary Dyson, 151¼, Penge, Sower scoring 59½-58½ after six twos.

Keith Halliwell, 168½, Wigan, outpointed Den Lake, 155, Herns Bay, Sower calling it 59-58 after six twos.

John Ellis, 163½, Bethnal Green, outpointed Malcolm Melville, 161½, Sower's card showing 59-58½ after six twos.
(3-7-88)

▶**WEMBLEY**—Grand Hall—European flyweight champion **Duke McKenzie**, 112, KO'd Spaniard Agapito Gomez, 111½, who was counted out by French referee Raymond Bachelet at 1:26 of Round Two in a scheduled 12.

Gomez was also down in Round One.

Michael Watson, 163¼, Islington, made it 16 wins in 17 fights and confirmed his status as a top contender for the British middleweight title by stopping American Kenny Styles, 164½, referee Mike Jacobs intervening at 0:38 of Round Nine in a scheduled 10 with Styles under pressure on the ropes.

Gary Mason, 240, Wadsworth, stopped former IBF cruiserweight titleholder **Rickey Parkey**, 191, United States, referee Reg Thompson not bothering to take up the count at 2:47 of Round One after Parkey had been down five times. The "fight" was farcical, with the American spending more time on the canvas than on his feet. The weight disparity didn't help.

Del Bryan, 149, Nottingham, drew with Michael Justin, 149, over eight, nobbins being contributed by enthusiastic fans.

Peter Bradley, 131, Glasgow, outpointed Steve Pollard, 131, Hull, referee Thompson scoring 79½-78 after eight twos.

Eric Cardouza, 186½, Daventry, didn't lose a round in outpointing Jonjo Greene, 187, Manchester, referee Thompson casting 60-58 after six.

▶**LONDON**—York Hall—British and Commonwealth heavyweight champion **Horace Notice**, 208, gave away 37¾ pounds and still stopped Hughroy Currie, 245¾, referee Adrian Morgan intervening in Round 10 of a scheduled 12 with Currie under pressure, but still on his feet and still game. When they met in 1986, Notice won in six rounds.

Pat Clinton, 112, Croy, won the vacant British flyweight title by outpointing fellow-Scot Joe Kelly, 112, Glasgow, referee Larry O'Connell scoring 118½-116 after 12.

Tommy Shiels, 157¼, stopped Kid Milo, Birmingham, 156½, referee O'Connell calling a halt at 1:17 of Round Two in a scheduled six after Milo had been down.

Kesem Clayton, 162, Coventry, outpointed Brian Robinson, 154½, Hastings, referee Nick White casting 59-58 after six. The previously unbeaten Robinson was down four times.

Roy Rowlands, 147½, London, stopped Dave Haggerty, 144½, Glasgow, referee White intervening at 1:50 of a scheduled eight twos after Haggerty had been down.

Damien Denny, 151, Belfast, made it six straight by outpointing Jimmy Thornton, 153, Sheffield, referee White scoring 80-76, indicating Denny had won every one of the eight two-minute rounds.
(3-9-88)

▶**LONDON**—Anglo City Sporting Club—Andrew Furlong, 138¾, Furlong, outpointed Neil Haddock, 138, Llanelli, referee Sid Nathan scoring 59½-58½ after six.

Tony Gibb, 147, Barking, outpointed Den Lake, 147, Herne Bay, Nathan calling it 59½-57½ from outside the ring as trial referee John Phillips handled the action.

John Donahue, 133½, Bermondsey, outpointed Kid Sumaila, Guyana, over six twos refereed by Phillips. Nathan's verdict was 59½-58.
(3-8-88)

▶**CROYDON**—Fairfield Hall—Tim Driscoll, 125, Bermondsey, won the vacant Southern Area featherweight title by outpointing Johnny B. Good, 125½, Croydon, referee Dave Parris scoring 98½-97½ after 10.

Driscoll remained undefeated, while Good suffered his first loss.

Former European and British champion Clinton McKenzie, 142, came back at the age of 32 to outclass Southern Area champion Chris Blake, 143½, winning every one of the eight rounds.

John Fairbairn, 189½, Newcastle, stopped John Love, 202, Orpington, referee Reg Thompson intervening at 1:00 of Round Two of a scheduled six twos.

Nick Meloscia, 140½, Gloucester, KO'd Robbie Bowen, 143½, Stafford, who was counted out at 2:00 of Round Three in a scheduled eight twos.

Debutant John Naylor, 133, New Cross, outpointed Paul Chanter, 134, Newcastle, Thompson scoring 59½-58 from outside the ring as trial official Paul Hillman handled the six two-minute rounds.

Martin Smith, 143, Tottenham, won every round in outpointing Cecil Branch, 146, Wolverhampton, scoreline 60-57 after six twos.
(3-10-88)

▶**STOKE**—Trentham Gardens—Kevin Thompson, 148, Dudley, kept his unbeaten record by stopping Robert Armstrong, 150, referee Jim Pridding intervening at 0:36 of Round Six after Armstrong had been down three times.

Dean Bramhald, 142, Doncaster, KO'd Mickey Vern, 142, Wednesfield, who was counted out by Pridding at 1:11 of Round Five in a scheduled six twos. It was the first clean knockout Bramhald had scored in his career, which covers almost 70 fights over four years.

Neil Malpass, 217, South Elmsall, KO'd Carl Timbrell, 232, Redditch, who was counted out by referee Terry O'Connor at 1:59 of the first of a scheduled six twos.

Steve Phillips, 140, Doncaster, outpointed Jeff Pugh, 140, Torquay, O'Connor scoring 59½-57½ after six twos.

Peter Bowen, 142, Wednesbury, stopped Dave Croft, 151, Doncaster, O'Connor calling a halt at 0:38 of Round Four of a scheduled six twos when Croft was cut by the left eye.
(3-9-88)

▶**GLASGOW**—St. Andrews Sporting Club—Jim Moffatt, 135½, Kilmarnock, outpointed Kevin Spratt, 136½, Bradford, referee Len Mullen scoring 78½-78 after eight.

Gordon Shaw, 117½, Glasgow, beat Danny Lee, 122½, Greenock, Mullen intervening as the bell ended Round Six when Lee was injured by the left eye.

Debutant John Lennard, 149¼, Greenock, KO'd Derek Mooney, 149½, at 1:04 of Round Two.

Frank Harrington, Lancaster, 148, stopped Owen Smith, Edinburgh, in just 1:51.
(3-10-88)

▶**SOUTHEND**—20th Century Sporting Club—Billy Barton, 122, Swansea, stopped Stewart Fishermac, 126, Luton, referee Tony Walker intervening in Round Two of a scheduled six twos after Fishermac had been down.

Gary King, 129, Luton, narrowly outpointed Dean Lynch, 124, Swansea, over six twos. Lynch was making a comeback after over a year's inactivity.

Alex Romeo, 168, Nottingham, stopped Gary Pemberton, 158, Swansea, in Round Four of a scheduled six twos when Pemberton suffered an eye injury.

Rocky Reynolds, 156, Swansea, outpointed Tony Baker, 154, New Cross, over six twos.
(3-1-88)

▶**NORWICH**—Lads Club—**Nigel Benn**, 161, Ilford, kept his unbeaten record by knocking out substitute Darren Hobson, 168, Leeds, at 1:49 of Round One. Hobson entered the bout unbeaten.

Sub Blaine Logsdon, 185, Warrington, stopped George Carman, 187, Wisbech, at 2:05 of the eighth and final round when Carman was cut by the left eye after a clash of heads. Logsdon appeared ahead at the time.

Unbeaten Mark Goult, 126, Wisbech, made it five straight by stopping Ronnie Stephenson, 123, Doncaster, at 1:33 of Round Four of a scheduled six twos.

Richard Bustin, 170½, Norwich, stopped Tony Behan, 177, Birmingham, referee Nick White calling a halt at 0:38 of Round Three in a scheduled six twos after Behan had been down.

Calvin Hart, 175¾, Lowestoft, outpointed Darren Jones, 174, Doncaster, White scoring 60-57½ after six twos.

Oliver Henry, 142, Kings Lynn, drew with Frankie Lake, 143, Bournemouth, over eight twos.

Eamonn Payne, 140, Kings Lynn, outpointed Steve Taggart, 141, Birmingham, 59-58½, in a six that saw Taggart down three times and Payne once.
(3-14-88)

▶**BATLEY**—Frontier Club—Rudi Valentino, 133, Hanwell, outpointed James Jiora, 132, Otley, referee Mickey Vann scoring 59½-58 after six.

Unbeaten Tony Connellan, 140, Rochdale, outpointed Gerry Beard, 143½, Nottingham, 79½-78 after eight.

Ray Newby, 137, Nottingham, stopped Darren Connellan, 137, Rochdale, at 1:17 of Round Seven of a scheduled eight after Connellan had been down.

Nigel Senior, 135, Nottingham, outpointed Billy Joe Dee, 142, Alfreton, 60-57½ over six twos.

Darren Derby, 134, Goldthorpe, outpointed Dave Thomas, 163, Hull, 59½-59 after six.

Peter Brown, 168½, Bradford, outpointed Darren McKenzie, 175, Alfreton, 60-57½ over six.
(3-8-88)

▶**LONDON**—National Sporting Club—Mickey Hughes, 151, St. Pancras, stopped Paul Murray, 156, Birmingham, at 2:06 of Round Four of a scheduled eight after Murray had been down three times in that round.

Derek Angel, 192, Camberwell, KO'd Alek Penarski, 200, at 1:10 of Round Two of a scheduled six.

Danny Cooper, 145, Southampton, stopped Tony Whitehouse, 145, Birmingham, at 1:56 of the opening round of a scheduled six twos.

Paul McCarthy, 162, Southampton, stopped Mark Howell, 156, Nottingham, at 1:51 of Round Two of a scheduled six twos after Howell was cut by the left eye.
(3-14-88)

RON OLVER

ORIENT

JAPAN

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Masahiro Takagi, 130, dropped the defending champ Fusao Imai, also 130,

twice in the fourth round and won a unanimous nod to capture the Japanese junior lightweight title in 10 heats.

Scoring: 98-95 and 98-94 (twice).

Takagi, the top contender of the Japanese Commission, had previously failed to win the national featherweight crown, losing to Eijiro Kuruma years ago. The new champ is 22-7-3 with 11 kayoes. Imai, three years Takagi's senior at 30, announced he will hang up his gloves for good.

Lion (Ari) Arikawa, an imported Filipino at 122, impressively knocked out ex-Japanese bantamweight titlist Mitsuo Imazato, also 122, at 1:47 of the fifth session in a scheduled 10. Arikawa is 16-1-1 with seven kayoes.

Tiger (Ari) Asakura, another Filipino import at 130, floored Bruce Kyoda, the JBC's #7 junior lightie, 130, time and again, stopping him at 0:40 of the sixth session of the first 10. Tiger, a lefty prospect, is 18-0 with eight kayoes.

Promoter: Kusunoki Miyoshi Club.

(2-16-88)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Leopard Tamakuma, the WBC's sixth-ranked flyweight contender, 112, kept his crown via a unanimous decision over unheralded Toshio Aikawa, 111¾, in 10. The tall lefty Leopard, however, greatly disappointed the crowd with his lackluster performance. The champ is 22-3 with eight KOs. Aikawa is 6-6 with three kayoes.

Yasuo Yogi, 105, became the new Japanese strawweight champ as he came off the canvas twice and dropped lefty Norikazu Kawana, also 105, thrice to score a dramatic kayo at 2:22 of the second round in a 10-round eliminator. All the knockdowns happened in the second canto. Yogi is 6-2-2 with four kayoes.

(2-25-88)

▶**NAGOYA**—Kasumibashi Sports Center—Kiyoshi Hatanaka, an exaggerated top contender of the WBA's junior bantamweight division, 117, exploded a wicked body shot to stop Filipino kingpin Constancio Dangla, 116¾, at 1:56 of the third round in a scheduled 10.

Hatanaka, an elongated hard puncher, is 15-0 with 10 kayoes.

(2-26-88)

▶**KYOTO**—Nihon Shobu Arena—Oh-Kong Son, the WBC's sixth-ranked flyweight contender of Korea, 113¼, lost a hairline split decision to Emil (Romano) Matsushima, a taller Filipino lefty at 111¾, in 10.

Son floored Emil with a solid right and had him groggy, but Emil fought back hard to win a close verdict.

Scoring: referee Matsumoto 96-94, Emil; judge Uenaka 94-93, Emil; judge Fujita 97-94, Oh-Kong. Emil, trained by Japanese manager Seigo Matsushima, is 17-4-2 with 10 kayoes. Son fell to 25-4 with 11 KOs.

Korean Hwan-Taek Choi, the Korean Commission's second-ranked junior lightie, 135½, sank Japanese puncher Taisetsu (Hogan) Noguchi, 134½, with heavy body shots at 1:37 of the second round in the semifinal 10.

Choi, ex-Korean champ, is 18-7-2 with six kayoes.

(2-27-88)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Shunichi Nakajima, 115, seized the vacant Japanese junior bantamweight crown by taking a nearly shutout decision (100-94, 100-95 and 99-95) over lefty Koji Nishikawa, also 115, in 10.

Nakajima, a tricky infighter, befuddled the ex-flyweight champ and raised his credentials to 14-4 with eight kayoes.

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Hideya Yamashiro, 134½, kayoed Yasuji Shimoji, 135, at 1:14 of the sixth round in a scheduled 10. Yamashiro, a heavy puncher, is 11-2 with seven kayoes.

(3-1-88)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Featherweight prospect Kengo Fukuda, 126, returned from his campaigns in Los Angeles and floored Mexican Gustavo Lopez, also 126, in the eighth and 10th rounds, taking a unanimous decision in 10. Fukuda is 12-1 with eight kayoes.

Ex-Japanese strawweight champ Kenji Ono, 108, made a comeback after a seven-month layoff and TKO'd Yasutaka Sakurai, 108, due to the latter's bad gash at 0:35 of the seventh round in a scheduled 10.

Ono is 17-10-4 with six kayoes.

(3-5-88)

▶**YOKOHAMA**—Cultural Gymnasium—Akio Kawamata, 111¾, used his sharper jabs and scored a unanimous decision over Toshio Nayuki, also 111¾, in eight. Kawamata, the JBC's top flyweight contender, is 15-1 with five kayoes, but lacked power and killer instinct.

(3-11-88)

▶**TOKYO**—Tokyo Dome—Japanese junior featherweight champ Mark (Brooks) Horikoshi, 123½, won a uananimous decision over Flash Emanuel, Filipino titlist at 124, in 10 on the Mike Tyson—Tony Tubbs undercard. Mark, the WBA's ninth-ranked 122-pounder, is 15-1 with 11 kayoes.

OPBF (Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation) junior middleweight kingpin Carlos Elliott, 155, TKO'd Filipino Retna Angara, also 155, at 2:50 of the fifth round in a scheduled 10. Carlos, American prospect ranked fourth by the WBA, raised his log to 18-1 with 16 kayoes.

Hiroyuki Yoshino, 147, amazed the crowd with his upset knockout of the defending champ Takao Sakamoto, 146, at 1:27 of the fourth session to win the Japanese welterweight throne in a scheduled 10.

Yoshino, a heavy underdog, is 8-3-1 with five kayoes. Sakamoto fell to 6-2 with six KOs.

Promoter: Akihiko Honda's Teiken Promotions.

Matchmaker: Joe Koizumi.

Attendance: 51,100 (est.).

(3-21-88)

▶**SENDAI**—Miyagi Sports Center—Iwao Otomo, 134½, barely kept his Japanese lightweight title as he was held to a majority draw by Masamichi Hashiguchi, 133½, in 10. It was Otomo's sixth defense, but he lacked his vaunted ferocity and form.

(3-22-88)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Takeyuki Akagi, ex-amateur champ, 133¼, made it 3-0 with as many kayoes by demolishing Naoyuki Iramina, 135, at 0:42 of the fifth round in a scheduled 10. Akagi had him at bay, flooring the more experienced rival with a left hook and a right cross in Round Four.

Hitoshi Kamiyama, a brutal puncher, 150, caught Kenji Kubo, also 150, halting him at 0:48 of the ninth session in a scheduled 10.

Kamiyama, the JBC's top welterweight contender, is 8-0-1 with three KOs.

Hiroyuki Motohashi, 142¼, earned a unanimous nod over Katsumi Nonoguchi, 141¼, in 10. Motohashi is 12-1-1 with five KOs.

Promoter: Shichiro Kimura's Shin-Nippon Kimura Promotions.

(3-24-88)

▶**IWATE**—Iwate Prefectural Gymnasium—Elongated Nobuyuki Tabata, 152¾, repeated a second-round kayo of Hidenobu Sakaki, 153¾, in their rematch to retain his Japanese junior middleweight title in a scheduled 10. Time was 2:44 of Round Two, 25 seconds earlier than the champ had iced the challenger last November.

Tabata is 23-6-1 with 21 kayoes.

(3-26-88)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Previously unbeaten Seiji Asakawa, the JBC's top featherweight contender, 123, was knocked out by Kazuya Kano, also 123, at 1:45 of the second round in a scheduled 10.

Kano, 25, showed his determination with his fierce opening attacks and downed the prefight favorite to the ropes for the compulsory eight count in the first round. Kenji swarmed over the still groggy Seiji, dropping him for the count in the next round. Kano is 14-1-1 with seven kayoes. Asakawa tasted his first setback and fell to 10-1 with seven KOs.

Kenichi Kimura, 108, showed his sharpness in finishing lefty Takeo Onishi, 107, at 1:59 of the second round in a supporting 10.

Kimura, 20, is ranked third in the national junior flyweight ratings and is 13-1 with six kayoes.

Promoter: Teiken Promotions.

(4-7-88)

▶**OSAKA**—Sakuranomiya Skating Rink—Hisashi Tokushima, Japan's #3 flyweight, 112, was awarded a hairline, but unanimous decision over lefty Masayuki Takahashi, 111½, in 10.

Scoring: 98-97, 97-96 and 98-95, all for Tokushima.

The local favorite, Tokushima is 14-1 with seven kayoes. Takahashi, the #2 contender, is 16-3 with seven knockouts.

(4-9-88)

▶**OSAKA**—Sakuranomiya Skating Rink—Katsumi Komiyama, the WBC's 10th-ranked light flyweight, 107¾, stopped Thai lefty Mahalab Singchachavan, 108, at 1:07 of the fifth round in a scheduled 10.

Komiyama, who returned from his Los Angeles campaigns, showed his gain of punching power and bettered his log to 11-2-4 with three kayoes.

Promoter: Harada Boxing Club.

(4-10-88)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Japanese junior bantamweight champ Shunich Nakajima, 117, engaged in a non-title go and scored a come-from-behind kayo over Jun Hoki, also 117, with a vicious left hook at 2:31 of the eighth round in a scheduled 10. Hoki's speedy combinations frustrated the sluggish champ, but Nakajima showed his vaunted power in the end. Nakajima is 15-4 with nine kayoes.

Yasuo Yogi, Japan's strawweight ruler, 108¼, came off the canvas and flattened taller Filipino Max Jorsailo, 106, at 3:07 of the second round in a scheduled 10. We saw Yogi's fighting spirit as well as his lantern jaw. Yogi is 7-2-2 with five kayoes.

Promoter: Yonekura Promotions.

(4-12-88)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Chiaki Kobayashi, the WBA's ninth-ranked junior bantamweight, 115, was floored by Filipino Leopard Ari, also 115, in the second round, but fought back hard to win a unanimous decision in 10.

Kobayashi had Ari on the deck with a straight right in Round Nine. He is 13-3 with four kayoes. It was a dull fight.

Naoki Ito, the JBC's second-ranked junior welterweight, 146½, eked out a split decision over Yoshiaki Tajima, 147, in a supporting 10. Ito is 9-3-1 with four kayoes.

Promoter: Kyoei Promotions.

(4-18-88)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Venezuelan **Leo Gamez**, the WBA world minimumweight champion at 105, stopped Japanese challenger Kenji Yokozawa, 104½, due to the latter's bad bleeding at 1:25 of the third round in a scheduled 12 and retained his crown for the first time. Gamez is 18-0 with 12 kayoes. Yokozawa is 10-8-2 with three knockouts.

Kengo Fukuda, a featherweight prospect at 126, was held to a split draw by Mexican Jose Escamilla, 125¾, in 10. Fukuda is 12-1-1 with eight knockouts. The Mexican is 7-3-1 with four KOs.

Jesus Rojas, a sparring partner of Gamez, 110, battered Yasutaka Sakurai, 109½, all the way and was awarded a fine TKO victory at 0:39 of the eighth and final round. Rojas looked very promising.

Promoter: Hitoshi Misako.

(4-21-88)

▶**OKINAWA**—Ishigaki Second Junior High School—Unbeaten Akinobu Hiranaka, 140, needed just 158 seconds of the first round to demolish Tadanobu Miura, 139¾, to keep his national junior welterweight title in a scheduled 10. Hiranaka, the WBA's fourth-ranked contender, is 14-0 with 13 kayoes. Miura fell to 8-6-3 with three KOs.

(4-24-88)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—What happened? Japanese bantamweight champ Tadashi Shimabukuro, the WBC's #15 contender, was scheduled to defend his title against Crasher (Toshimi) Miura, but failed to appear at the morning weigh-in due to a sudden stomachache. The title go was canceled, and Tadashi gave up his crown as an apology to Miura and fight fans. He will be given suspension or reportedly hang up his gloves as it is the third time he canceled a showing on fight day.

The slated semifinal became the main event, where another happening took place. Speedy Kikuchi, 118, kept punching for seconds after the bell of the third round and dropped Soichi Shimamura, the JBC's #9 bantie, so he paid the penalty of a point for his foul. After a five-minute recess, the fight was resumed and Shimamura gained revenge, flattening Kikuchi at 2:25 of the seventh round in a scheduled 10.

Speedy would have been disqualified if it had been fought abroad.

Shimamura, 19, is 8-2 with four kayoes. Speedy, 25,

fell to 7-4-1 with three knockouts.
(4-25-88)

▶**OSAKA**—Osaka Prefectural Gymnasium—Yoshitatsu Nakazato, the JBC's fifth-ranked junior lightie, 135¼, defeated Shinji Kobayashi, 133, by a unanimous decision in 10. Nakazato is 16-2-1 with four knockouts. Kobayashi fell to 9-9-2 with seven KOs.
(4-25-88)

▶**TOKYO**—Korakuen Hall—Rising prospect Noboru Ogiwara, Japan's #3 junior featherweight, 122, was befuddled by the footwork and elusiveness of unheralded Jun Yonesaka, 120½, but desperately fought to win a close, but unanimous decision (double 98-96 and 99-96) in 10. Ogihara is 11-1-2 with four kayoes. Yonesaka fell to 7-3 with three KOs.

Kazushige Shibuya, the JBC's #7 junior feather, 123, was given a split duke over Yukihiro Kimura, a crouching stylist also at 123, in 10. Shibuya is 9-3 with three kayoes.
(4-27-88)

JOE KOIZUMI

KOREA

▶**MASAN**—Masan Indoor Gymnasium—Jum-Hwan Choi, the IBF world junior flyweight champ, 109, defeated Filipino Rolando Pascua, 109¼, by a unanimous decision in 10.

Promoter: Saeki Promotions.
(1-30-88)

▶**SEOUL**—Munhwa Gymnasium—The WBA world junior flyweight champion **Myung-Woo Yuh**, 107¾, retained his title by decisioning Mexican Willie Salazar, 107, in 12.

Chong-Pil Park, the WBA's #7 bantamweight, 119½, ran his unbeaten log to 12-0 by stopping Japanese Kazuto Kurahachi, 119, at 2:19 of the seventh round in a scheduled 10. Kurahachi almost floored Park, but collapsed with Park's accurate punches. The loser is 13-3 with nine KOs.

Promoter: Dong-A Promotions.
(2-7-88)

▶**SEOUL**—Palpal Gymnasium—The OPBF (Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation) junior featherweight champ Hee-Yun Chung, the WBC's #16 contender, 121½, barely kept his crown as he was held to a split draw by compatriot Joung-Woo Park, 121¾, in 12.

It was a dull affair as the puzzling lefty Chun annoyed Park so much that they repeated clinches all the way. Scoring: referee Hwan-Soo Yuh 117-115, Park; judge Chin-Kuk Kim 117-116, Chung; judge Eung-Myung Bae 116-116. Chung is 21-4-4 with five knockouts. Park is 15-4-5 with six kayoes.

Sung-Woo Lee, the WBC's third-ranked strawweight, 116½, decisioned Inkyu Hwang, 107½, in 10. Lee is 8-1-1 with four kayoes.

Promoter: Hyundai Promotions.
(2-13-88)

▶**KIMPO**—Yangkok Junior High School Gymnasium—The OPBF junior flyweight champ Yong-Kang Kim, the WBC's #5 contender, 108, successfully retained his title by a split decision over Filipino Sonny Vidal. Also 108, in 12.

Scoring: 119-114 and 118-113 both for Kim, and 116-114 for Vidal.

Kim is still unbeaten with a 16-0 record including nine kayoes. He is a lanky boxer dependent on footwork rather than power. Vidal is 15-4-1 with five kayoes.

Rising prospect Sung-Ho Chang, Korean #2 junior middleweight, 155½, scored an important win over Filipino welterweight Noli de Guia, 154½, in 10. Chang is 9-0-1 with five kayoes. Guia fell to 6-4 with five KOs.

Sung-Woon Song, Korean second-ranked lightie, 139, decisioned Kwon-Shik Kim, also 139, in 10. Song is 14-1 with three kayoes.

Promoter: Palpal Promotions.
(2-20-88)

▶**SEOUL**—Palpal Gymnasium—Unbeaten prospect Sung-Kil Moon, the WBA's #8 junior bantamweight contender, 116½, caught American Tony Pruit, 118¼, and disposed of him at 0:45 of the third round in a scheduled 10. Moon is 5-0 with as many kayoes. He sent Tony to the canvas in the second and third cantos. The loser is 11-4-1 with six kayoes.

Bi-Won Chung, the WBC's #24 flyweight, 113½, decisioned Thai Don Chuvatana, 113, in 10. Chung is 25-5-2 with seven kayoes.

Korean welterweight champ Sang-Joo Park, 147, drew with In-Soon Kim, also 147, to retain his national throne in 10. Park is 8-2-2 with two kayoes. Kim, the top contender, is 11-2-3 with nine KOs. He deserves a rematch.

Promoter: Palpal Promotions.
(2-21-88)

▶**TAEJON**—Chungmu Gymnasium—Amazingly, Sakad Petchyndee, the OPBF lightweight champ ranked 10th by the WBC, 135, lost his title via a split decision to Korean Bong-Chun Park, 134½, in 12.

Scoring: referee Asao (Japan) 118-116, Park; judge Kim (Korea) 117-115, Park; and judge Minibradas (Thailand) 118-116, Sakad.

Sakad failed to display his vaunted power punching, missing many blows. It was a very close fight, but Park came forward to open a cut on Sakad's left cheek and win the last three rounds.

The Thai fell to 11-2 with eight kayoes. Park, Korean champ, scored a very valuable win to raise his credentials to 12-9-7 with two KOs.

Korean bantamweight leader Chang-Kyun Oh, 117¾, kept his crown by outpointing Sam-Yong Kim, 118, in 10. Oh is 22-4-4 with 10 kayoes.

Promoter: Kukdong Promotions.
(2-28-88)

▶**CHUNJU**—Chunju Indoor Gymnasium—The WBA super middleweight champ **Chong-Pal Park**, 167½, retained his crown by stopping Polly Pasireron, the OPBF middleweight ruler from Indonesia, 168, at 2:25 of the fifth round in a scheduled 12.

Dal-Ho Ahn, the KBC's #4 middleweight, 162½, decisioned Kang-Chul Choi, 162½, in eight.

Promoter: Dong-A Promotions.
(3-1-88)

▶**TAEGU**—Taegu Indoor Gymnasium—**Sang-Ho Lee** the WBA's second-ranked junior welterweight, 141¼, floored Japanese Seiji Nagasawa, 139¾, in the fifth round, battered him at will and halted him at 1:16 of the eighth session in a scheduled 10. The loser's cornerman tossed in the towel to save him from further punishment.

Lee is 46-1 with 39 kayoes. Nagasawa fell to 6-3 with five kayoes.

If Lee can protect his glass jaw, he will have a chance to acquire the world crown with his speed and counterpunching.

As Sang-Ho Lee relinquished his OPBF crown, an eliminator took place. Chul Kang and Hong-Kyu Lim, both 139½, hit the deck each thrice with the former stopping the latter at 1:32 of the fifth round in a scheduled 12. Kang was dropped in the first round and twice in the next session. Lim visited the floor in the second and twice more in the fatal canto. It was really a give-and-take battle. Kang, a prefight underdog, is 10-7 with eight kayoes. Lim is 25-4-2 with 17 KOs.
(3-5-88)

▶**ULSAN**—Ulsan Indoor Gymnasium—The OPBF bantamweight champ Chun Huh, the WBC's 11th contender, 118, showed his strength in connecting with lefts and rights to sink Filipino Gilbert Albay, 118, at 1:30 of the fifth round in a scheduled 12.

The 5'8" Huh (this is his family name) utilized his superior reach and raised his log to 22-1 with 15 kayoes. Albay fell to 18-6-3 with eight KOs.

Promoter: Ilhwa Gymnasium.
(3-6-88)

▶**SEOUL**—Munhwa Gymnasium—Former WBA bantamweight champ **Chan-Yong Park,** 128, dug a lethal body shot to drop Japan's Masakuatsu Sakuma, 127, in agony for the count at 1:00 of the second round in a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Dong-A Promotions.
(3-12-88)

▶**SANCHUNPO**—Sanchunpo High School Gymnasium—**Young-Kil Chung**, the WBA's and WBC's second-ranked welterweight, 147½, showed his power and finished Filipino Rolando Aldemir, 146½, at 1:56 of the third round in a scheduled 10. Chung's OPBF title wasn't at stake.

Promoter: Kukdong Promotions.
(3-12-88)

▶**SEOUL**—Munhwa Gymnasium—**Rae-Ki Ahn**, previously ranked atop the WBA flyweight ratings, 114, appeared after a layoff following his shocking kayo by Sot Chitalada, but was held to a draw by Thai champ Downrung Technicutaradit, 114½, in 10. Ahn is 22-3-4 with 12 kayoes. Downrung is 13-3-2 with seven KOs.

Promoter: Waryong Promotions.
(3-13-88)

▶**ULSAN**—Ulsan Indoor Gymnasium—Former IBF junior featherweight champ **Seung-Hoon Lee**, 122½, defeated ex-WBA bantamweight kingpin **Julian Solis,** 123½, by a close but unanimous decision in 10.

Both displayed excellent left hands throughout the contest. Lee was in command in rounds six and nine, which carried him to a victory.

Lee is 42-6 with 22 knockouts. Solis is 34-4 with 21 kayoes. It was a good fight.

Fast-rising Youl-Woo Lee, the WBC's fifth-ranked flyweight, 113¾, caught Duk-Hyun Kim, also 113¾, and demolished him at 1:18 of the seventh round in a scheduled 10.

Lee is 14-0 with seven kayoes.

Promoter: Kukdong Promotions.
(3-20-88)

▶**NAMHAE**—Namhae Arena—The OPBF junior bantamweight champ **Tae-Il Chang,** 115, kept his throne by a unanimous decision over Indonesian Jossy Amnifu, 114¾, in 12. Their lack of action was jeered by the crowd. The tall lefty Chang barely outsped the slower challenger.

Scoring: 120-113, 118-114, and 114-113, all for Tae-Il.

Chang, ex-IBF world kingpin, is 25-3-1 with nine knockouts. Amnifu suffered his first setback and impaired to 8-1-2 with five KOs.

The semifinal saw Chil-Sung Chun, the WBA's 10th-ranked lightie, 136¾, stop Filipino Leo Sabanal, 136½, at 2:30 of the second round in a scheduled 10. Chun is 10-1 with six kayoes.

Promoter: Palpal Promotions.
(3-26-88)

▶**SEOUL**—Palpal Gymnasium—Unbeaten prospect Young-Chun Min, 120, scored an important triumph over ex-WBC flyweight champ Frank Cedeno, 122¼, by a technical decision midway in the fifth round of a scheduled 10. The contract weight was 120 pounds, so Cedeno, who failed to make the weight, had to wear heavier eight-ounce gloves. Min whipped the lefty Filipino and opened a bad gash over the right eyebrow. He bled so profusely that a KBC physician saw him unfit to continue.

Min, a winner of the Korean Novice King Tourney, is 9-0 with six kayoes.

Promoter: Kangpo Promotions.
(3-27-88)

▶**ANYANG**—Yangmyong High School Gymnasium—Former IBF flyweight champ Chong-Kwan Chung, 114¾, seized the Korean junior bantamweight crown by disposing of the defending champ Sung-Kwan Lee, 115, at 2:34 of the seventh round in a scheduled 10.

Chung, now 15-9-4 with six kayoes, caught the footworker and sank him in the sixth and seventh sessions.

Bong-Kyun Oh, former amateur ring star, 136½, ran his log to 2-0 with a kayo as he stopped Oh-Kyung Kim, 136¾, at 0:57 of the fifth round in a scheduled 10. Kim is 12-1-1 with two KOs.

Promoter: Dong-Il Promotions.
(4-3-88)

▶**JINJU**—Jinju Students Gymnasium—Kyung-Duk Ahn, the WBC's #6 super lightweight, 142, exploded a solid right uppercut to Filipino Boy Romero, 141¾, flattening him at 2:36 of the third round in a scheduled 10.

Ahn is 25-1 with 11 kayoes. His sole loss was given by Sang-Ho Lee, who then captured the OPBF crown. Romero is 16-8-3 with nine KOs.

Sung-Woon Song, 135, became the new Korean lightweight champ by beating Chong-Kil Kim, also 135, on points in 10. Song is 15-1 with three kayoes. Kim, the top contender, fell to 7-4-2 with six kayoes.

Promoter: Kukdong Promotions.
(4-5-88)

▶**JINJU**—Jinju Students Gymnasium—Having lost a very controversial decision to Venezuelan Leo Gamez in the WBA minimumweight eliminator last January, Bong-Jun Kim, 106¼, returned to action and won a unanimous nod from Indonesian Nana Suhana, 107, in 10. Kim, the WBA's top contender, is 14-5-3 with four knockouts.

Unbeaten Yun-Un Chin, Korean top flyweight contender, 114, stunned the crowd by making short work of Sung-Yup Kang, 114¼, at 2:31 of the opening canto in the semifinal 10.

Promoter: Palpal Promotions.
(4-9-88)

▶**SEOUL**—Palpal Gymnasium—As the Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation's mini-flyweight champ, Samuth Sithnaruepol acquired the IBF throne in March, his OPBF title left vacant. An eliminator was fought by the top two contenders, both of whom are Koreans. Hi-Yong Choi, 104¾, became the new kingpin via a hairline split decision over Sam-Joong Lee, 104½, in 12.

Scoring: referee Jae-Bong Kim 116-115, Lee; judge Sok-Shik Kim 117-114, Choi; and Dong-An Park 116-115, Choi.

Choi, former amateur star, took the OPBF laurels with just a 4-0 log, including a kayo. Lee, the WBA's #6 minimumweight contender, fell to 14-3 with three KOs.

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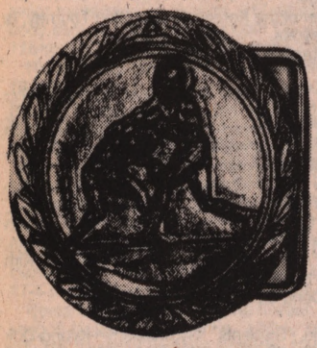

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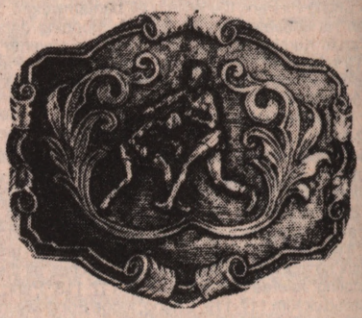

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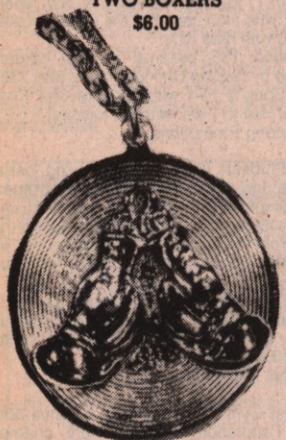

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Shin-Heung Park 129½, seized the Korean junior lightweight title by stopping Soo-Ik Park, the defending champ at 128¾, at 2:45 of the fifth round of a scheduled 10. Shin-Heung is 13-1-3 with six kayoes. Soo-Ik dropped to 4-1 with two KOs.

Myung-Kyu Lee, 104, also took the vacant Korean mini-flyweight crown by beating Sang-Hyun Han, 105, on points in 10. Lee is 8-3-2 with three kayoes. Han is 11-4-5 with a kayo. The national title had been vacated by Sam-Joong Kim in his quest for the OPBF throne.

Promoter: Hyundai Promotions.

(4-10-88).

▶**ILSAN**—Ilsan Universal High School Gymnasium—Former OPBF featherweight champ Jae-Yong Hwang, a southpaw footworker, 129½, lost an upset decision to Filipino Lulu Villaverde, 129¾, in 10.

Lulu was regarded as an easy trialhorse for Hwang's comeback, but his trickiness befuddled the Korean. Villaverde is 24-4-3 with 14 kayoes. Hwang is 19-3-1 with two KOs.

Promoter: Saeki Promotions.

(4-16-88)

▶**HONSAN**—Honsan Industrial High School Gymnasium—Having been badly stopped by Julian Jackson in his quest for the vacant WBA junior middleweight throne in Las Vegas, **In-Chul Baek** decided to move up to the 160-pound division. Baek, 160, gained the OPBF middleweight title by easily finishing Indonesian Udiana, 159½, at 0:53 of the second round in a 12-round eliminator.

According to the OPBF rules and regulations, the titlists of the Orient and Pacific Federation must give up the crowns prior to their cracks at the world thrones in order to activiate title competitions. Polly Pasireron thus relinquished his OPBF middleweight laurels.

In-Chul had Udiana sprawling to the deck twice before Japanese referee Hiroyuki Tezaki declared a halt. Baek is 42-2 with 39 kayoes. Udiana suffered his first loss and is 5-1-1 with two KOs.

Cha-Sok Oh, Korean top featherweight contender, 127½, decisioned Mexican Mario Rodriguez, 127, in 10 frames, though Oh was floored by a right shot by the loser in the final session. He was saved by the bell and was awarded the decision. The crowd jeered the winner.

Promoter: Kukdong Promotions.

(4-17-88)

▶**BUJU**—Buju Citizens Arena—The OPBF featherweight champion Byung-Soo Park, 125¾, took just 2:37 of the first round to defend his crown, finishing Filipino Leon Collins, also 125¾, in a scheduled 12-rounder. Park nailed the challenger with a flurry of punches, having him on the deck. The champ improved his log to 25-2-1 with 16 kayoes. The OPBF's #10 contender fell to 21-6-4 with just three knockouts.

Soon-Yong Chong, 108, captured the Korean junior flyweight title by scoring a TKO win over Chang-Woo Hong, also 108, at 0:57 of the second session in a scheduled 10. Chung is 13-1-3 with three knockouts. The dethroned champ is 13-2 with seven KOs.

Promoter: Waryong Promotions.

(4-23-88)

▶**SEOUL**—Munhwa Gymnasium—Seung-Soon Lee, the WBC's seventh-ranked welterweight, 148¾, mixed up with Filipino champ Francisco Ferrer, 148¼, all the way, copping a unanimous decision in 10.

Lee, a taller boxer-puncher, failed to catch the Filipino with his vaunted power shots. He is 33-2 with 24 kayoes. Ferrer, a durable veteran, is 42-4-5 with 10 stoppages.

Promoter: Dong-A Promotions.

(4-24-88)

▶**NOTES:** Boxing was one of the most popular sports in Korea, being telecast very regularly for many, many years. But major TV companies, KBC and MBS, made a decision to show just big fights, like world title bouts or hot encounters by Korea's outstanding boxers. One of the reasons is that the TV ratings have dropped drastically for boxing programs after many poor performances in IBF world title goes in Korea. KBC and MBS already concluded they would never televise so-called title fights for the IBF thrones. In this regard, Seung-Hoon Lee, the IBF junior featherweight champ, gave up his crown in order to challenge the WBC champ for greater recognition.

JOE KOIZUMI and YOO-CHANG KIM

PHILIPPINES

▶**MANILA**—Rizal Memorial Coliseum—On the undercard of the Bohol-Choi titlefight, Edel Geronimo, ranked atop in the bantamweight class by the GAB (Games and Amusements Board, the commission of this country), 118, took a unanimous decision over Kap-Sup Song, a Korean boy at 117, in 10.

Joe Hiyas, the WBC international junior featherweight champ, 124, was awarded a split nod over Bert Pucay, a brutal swinger at 125½, in 10.

Cobra Ari Blanca, the GAB's #2 junior bantie, 116½, beat Al Mariano, 117, on points in 10.

Little Bangoyan, ex-Filipino junior featherweight boss, 123½, eked out a split nod over Leon Collins, 125, in 10.

Roger Derama, 108½, won a majority decision over Ronnie Vallescas, 108, in 10.

Promoter: Laura S. Elorde.

(1-16-88)

▶**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY**—June Gernerale, 113, scored a fourth-round TKO win over Terry Felisilda, 112, in a scheduled 10.

Frank Domino, the GAB's #7 junior lightie, 121, was a unanimous points winner over Jun Quiamco, also 131, in 10.

Dick Carloss III, 103, outscored Vic Tinaco, 102, in 10.

Promoter: Carlos Lucing.

(1-16-88)

▶**DON CARLOS BUKIDNON**—Loloc Loren, Filipino #8 junior flyweight, 107, defeated Arnold Solitario, 110, by a majority decision in 10.

Promoter: Hilario Binifacio.

(1-18-88)

▶**DIGOS, DAVAO DEL SUR**—Nathan Ballerda, 112, scored a seventh-round TKO over Geofrey Geconcillo, also 112, in a scheduled 10.

Promoter: G. Gabriel.

(1-22-88)

▶**PANABO, DAVAO**—Nick Ampong, Filipino #6 bantie, 122, was awarded a majority duke over Fernando Carupo, 122, in 10.

Ronnie Tan, 122, stopped Jessie Cambangay, also 122, in the fourth canto of a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Joel Obsioma.

(1-23-88)

▶**BINMALEY, PANGASINAN**—Romeo Opriasa, the GAB's top flyweight contender, 113, was held to a majority draw by Emil (Matsushima) Romano, 114, in 10.

Rex Rapiso, 109, unanimously decisioned Max Porrosuelo, 108, in 10.

Jessie Solis, 136, TKO'd Bert Lozano, 140, in the eighth round of a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Carlos Munoz.

(1-23-88)

▶**VALENCIA, BUKIDONON**—Cesar de la Cruz, Filipino second-ranked junior flyweight, 110, registered a fine technical knockout over Joel Revilla, 110, in the third round of a scheduled 10.

Rey Paciones, 114, unanimously decisioned Roger Vicera, also 114, in 10.

Domino Simene, 118, stopped Danny Lumanog, 118, in the third session of the first 10.

(1-24-88)

▶**SOUTH COTABATO**—Gilbert Albay, the GAB's top bantamweight contender, 118, unanimously decisioned Joe Apurado, also 118, in 10.

Mario Parcon, 115, won from Jerry Sera, 115, in 10.

Promoter: Carmelino Buenaflor.

(1-24-88)

▶**CAMIGAIN**—Fidel Timgam, 109, managed to take a split decision over Bonifacio Bahian, 109, in 10. Eric Alido refereed.

Promoter: Ben Ebale.

(1-24-88)

▶**DAVAO CITY**—CYO Gym—Allan Allegria, Filipino junior welterweight champ, 147, showed his strength in stopping Noli de Guia, a rising rookie, also 147, in the eighth round of a scheduled 10. Arabis refereed.

Young Rey, 114, drew with Jerry Allawan, 113, in 10.

Boy Louperez, 122, TKO'd Boy Posadas, 123, in the seventh canto in a scheduled 10.

Bonnie Abian, 124, stopped Lec Lancian, 125, in the 10th and final stanza.

Promoter: Jose Alegria.

(1-28-88)

▶**GENERAL SANTOS CITY**—Former Filipino flyweight champ Romy Navarrete, 114, engaged in a tuneup go prior to his grudge fight with Sammy Baculong, the current titlist, and won a unanimous decision over Lito Villaflor, 115, in 10.

Rey Paciones, 117¼, unanimously outpointed Kid Gella, 119, in 10.

Cesar Perez, 115½, impressively knocked out Mario Parcon, 114½, in the fifth round of a scheduled 10.

Ed Adame, 111, decisioned Jongjong Perez, 109, in 10.

Promoter: Ricardo Mendez.

(1-30-88)

▶**CEBU CITY**—Cebu Coliseum—Jojo Cayson, 123¾, successfully kept his Filipino featherweight crown by knocking out Vic Subiza, 125¼, in the eighth round of a scheduled 12. Luciano Ebiera Jr. refereed.

Cayson made a bloody mess of Subiza and sank him in the loser's corner with a barrage of punches. The onesided fight should have been stopped much earlier. Jojo, 24, has won 25 (15 by kayo) of 30 bouts.

Edel Geronimo, Filipino top junior bantamweight contender, 117, battered Tom Ramos, 118½, taking a unanimous decision in 10.

Jun Altarejos, 107, clinched to a 10-round decision over Anthony Rendiza, 105.

Promoter: Aranco Sports Promotion.

(1-30-88)

▶**CEBU CITY—Jun Padayongdog,** Filipino #8 junior bantamweight contender, died of brain injuries at Metro Cebu Community hospital. He felt ill after a sparring session with ex-WBC flyweight champ Frank Cedeno. The 25-year-old boxer belonged to Carl Penalosa's stable. He was buried January 31 in Cebu.

(1-25-88)

▶**BAGUIO CITY**—Baguio College Foundation Gym—Bernabe Aliping, Filipino #3 lightie, 135, chalked up a TKO win over Romy Cunanan, also 135, in the fifth round of a scheduled 10.

Ramon Wasi, 128, won a unanimous nod from Cris Saguid, 126, in 10.

Promoter: Raffy Panagan.

(1-30-88)

▶**AGUSAN DEL NORTE**—Terry Felisilda, Filipino #6 junior flyweight, 110, pummeled Bonifacio Bahian, 111, into submission in the eighth round of a scheduled 10. Benifacio Galenia refereed.

Al Balaba, 122, stopped Speed Picantes, also 122, in Round Four of a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Neptali Bokingo.

(2-2-88)

▶**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY**—Gold City Coliseum—Jongjong Pacquing, the IBF's third-ranked junior welterweight contender, 141, impressively halted ex-Filipino lightweight champ Lito Pena, 140, at the end of the fifth round in a scheduled 10.

Pacquing was tuning up before leaving for the US to meet Buddy McGirt in his quest for the IBF world throne. Pacquing displayed powerful combinations and had the loser backpedaling all the way. Pena quit after the fifth due to his absorption of too much punishment.

Rod Naiconi, 115, won a unanimous nod from Pat Bracero, 114, in 10.

Promoter: Carlos Almirante.

(2-6-88)

▶**TAGUM, DAVAO**—Nelson Purisima, 109, demolished Ricky Flor, also 109, in the sixth round of a scheduled 10.

Little Campo, 130, eked out a split verdict over Luis Milado, also 130, in 10, and Sumalinog, 120, drew with Nelson Cabig, 120, in 10.

Promoter: Eusebio Almario Jr.

(2-6-88)

▶**TONDO, MANILA**—Felix Enero, Filipino #8 junior featherweight, 122, was stalking Miguel Arrozal, 121, with busy combinations to the midsection and won a unanimous decision in 10.

Bobby Pinos, 123, took a majority nod over Rene Brugada, 123½, in 10.

Promoter: Tomasa Pamilosa.

(2-7-88)

▶**DAVAO DEL NORTE**—Rolando Aldemir, a veteran campaigner, 150, easily finished Gar Atayde, 148, in the second round of a scheduled 10.

Sammy Aldemir, 110, was awarded a majority duke over Renato Bestsaida, 110, in 10.

Promoter: William Sanchez.

(2-7-88)

▶**KIDAPAWAN, NORTH COTABATO**—Pepito Simblante, the GAB's #6 bantie, 118, was held to a majority draw by Ric Apatan, also 118, in 10. Mundog refereed.

Joseph Salvador, 114, also drew with Felix Sadele, 114, in eight.

Promoter: Victor Quiambao.

(2-12-88)

▶**BAGUIO CITY**—University of Baguio Gym—Filipino flyweight champ Sammy Baculong, 113, proved too strong for Mario Aliguid, 112, taking a unanimous decision in 10.

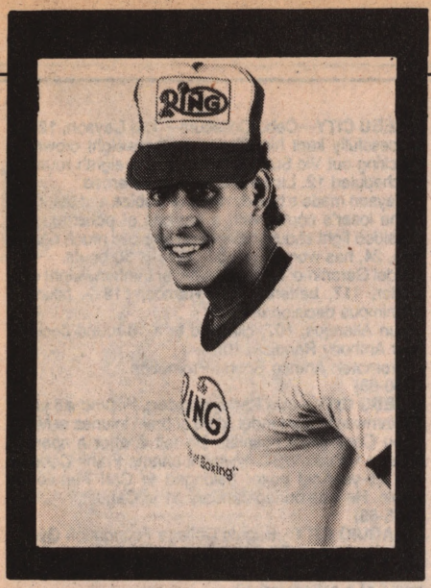
Audy Murphy, 120¾, and Sammy Ansig, 117, battled to a split draw in 10.

This card was held for the benefit of the out-of-school youth in Baguio.

Promoter: Emily de la Rama.

(2-13-88)

▶**TONDO, MANILA**—Al Marinao, Filipino #8 bantam-



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weight, 118, pounded out a unanimous decision over Tom Ramos, 119, in 10.

Boy Masoay, 123, won over Celso Areglo, 123, in 10.

Promoter: T. Pamilosa.

(2-13-88)

▶**VALENCIA, BUKIDONON**—Cesar de la Cruz, the GAB's top junior flyweight contender, 112, defeated Arnulfo Melencion, also 112, in 10. Jimmy Galarpe refereed.

Jun Torregosa, 117, TKO'd Boy Lim, 119, in the sixtn round of a scheduled 10.

Jun Tinoy, 121, stopped Vic Caballero, 116, in the sixth session of a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Lorito Tucmo.

(2-13-88)

▶**PARANAQUE**—Elorde Sports Complex—Hard punching Momong Mana-ay, Filipino #2 junior lightie, 135¼, floored Elmer Leonardo, 136, twice in the third round and again at 2:45 of the fourth session in a scheduled 10. Referee Tom Evaristo wisely halted the proceedings.

Rey Esteller, 148, unanimously decisioned Fred Galang, 149, in 10.

Jun Altarejos, the GAB's third-ranked mini-flyweight, 108, TKO'd Romy Austria, 107½, in the third session of a scheduled 10.

Ronnie Vallescas, 108½, won over Anthony Rendiza, 104¼, in 10.

Promoter: Laura S. Elorde.

(2-20-88)

▶**BAGUIO CITY**—Baguio College Foundation Gym—Mon Desoloc, Filipino #4 welterweight, 146, ulitized his height advantage by four inches and battered the breadbasket of Elmer Pendog, 141, stopping him at the end of the fourth round in a scheduled 10.

Ramon Wasi, the GAB's #4 junior lightie, 131, took a unanimous nod over Danilo Contado, also 131, in 10.

Alberto Saxon, 135, beat Freddie Panerio, 132, on points in 10.

Junior Danglose, 135½, whipped Joe Ruiz, 133, by unanimous decision in 10.

Promoter: Gary Kiwang.

(2-20-88)

▶**LAPULAPU CITY**—Boy Dignos, the GAB's second-ranked mini-flyweight, 111, halted Ross Canedo, 112, at 0:38 of the sixth session in a scheduled 10. Gerry Villarante refereed.

Fidel Ymbong, 118, decisioned Elde Paradero, 115½, in 10.

Rocky Marcial, 109, TKO'd Al Ygonia, 108, at 0:39 of the eighth round of the first 10.

Promoter: Ben Sun Promotions.

(2-20-88)

▶**TAGUM, DAVAO DEL NORTE**—The OPBF junior lightweight champ Geron Porras, 130, showed his ring experience and chalked up a fine TKO triumph over Jun Quiamco, 128¾, in the sixth round of a scheduled 12.

Rolando Pascua, 112, outscored Trifon Torralba, 112, in 10.

Romeo Opriasa, Filipino top flyweight, 115½, took a unanimous duke over Flash Simene, 116¾, in 10.

Kid Tavera, 123, won over Mario Sumalinog, 121½, in 10.

Former Filipino champ Jun Resma, 122½, a still-active soldier who never went away from the battlefield, stopped Nelson Cabig, 121, in the ninth canto of the first 10.

Promoter: Reynaldo Yabut.

(2-20-88)

▶**MATI, DAVAO ORIENTAL**—Young Abaloyan, the GAB's #4 featherweight, 130, earned a majority duke over Leo Almosa, 130, in 10.

Promoter: William Sanchez.

(2-20-88)

▶**PAGADIAN CITY**—Alex Masicampo, 130, fought to a technical draw with Jessem Garson, also 130, in the third round of a scheduled 10.

Tata Ariosa, 128, won from Jun Carrion, 128, in 10.

Flash Asesor, 114, decisioned Diony Rago, 113, in 10.

Promoter: Gerry Ese.

(2-20-88)

▶**OROQUETA**—Flash Ursus, 130, halted Flor Pabayo, also 130, in the second round of a scheduled 10.

Kid Gella, 118, won a unanimous technical decision over Mac Espanola, 118, in the seventh round of a scheduled 10.

Jun Edward, Filipino #5 junior bantie, took a split nod over Jun Salisi, 116, in 10.

Promoter: Reynaldo Yabut.

(2-26-88)

▶**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY**—Having fought a fortnight before, Cesar de la Cruz, 114, appeared again and impressively knocked out Cecilio Tutor, 114, at 1:16 in the third round of a scheduled 10.

Allan Morre, the GAB's #3 junior flyweight, 115, was also a kayo victor over Jun Generale, 115, at 1:20 of the sixth session in the semifinal 10.

Del Timgam, 109, unanimously outscored Jongjong Perez, 108, in 10.

Frank Domino, 130, stopped Roger Quisaba, 131, in the eighth round of a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Cayetano Poquita.

(2-27-88)

▶**VALENCIA, BUKIDOKON**—Valencia Cockpit—Rey Paciones, 112, was held to a split draw by Fighting Roger, 112, in 10. Jimmy Galarpe referee.

Jun Medina, 110, took a split decision over Rex Cailing, 110, in 10.

Danny Lumanog, 118, fought to a majority draw with Lito Butra, 118, in 10.

Promoter: Ramon Siaty.

(2-28-88)

▶**MAMBAJAO, CAMIGUIN PROVINCE**—Derning Tinoy, 118, pounded out a unanimous decision over Baby Capili, also 117, in 10.

Promoter: Ben Ebale.

(2-20-88)

▶**VILLANUEVA**—Villanueva Cockpit—Victor Sagaad, 130, scored a TKO win over Pepe Olano, 131, in the sixth session of a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Ben Ompoc.

(2-28-88)

▶**TAMBULIG, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR**—Jun Arbas, 129, fought to a draw with Jessim Garzon, 129, in 10. Young Cleefe refereed.

Promoter: Roberto Rodrigo.

(2-28-88)

▶**TAGUM, DAVAO DEL NORTE**—Edel Geronimo, the GAB's top junior bantamweight contender, 116½, hit the deck from a vicious uppercut by Dadoy Andujar, a hard puncher at 117, in the fifth round and lost an upset decision in 10.

Andujar was formerly Filipino champ, who had decisioned Luisito Espinosa by a close decision, but dropped a lopsided nod to the WBC's 10th-ranked bantie in a rematch last September.

Nick Ampong, 122, took a majority duke over Emiliano Alferez, also 122, in 10.

Little Campo, Filipino #2 junior lightie, managed to win a split verdict over Luis Milado, 130, in 10.

Promoter: Eusebio Almario Jr.

(3-5-88)

▶**VALENCIA, BUKIDNON**—Jun Ramos, Filipino top junior welterweight contender, 142, defeated Ric Dolotallas, also 142, by a majority decision in 10.

Al Balaba, 121, scored a second-round TKO win over Boy Gonzales, 121, in a scheduled 10.

Loloc Elloren, 109, battled to a technical draw with Fernando Baja, 107, in 10.

Promoter: Neptali Bokingo.

(3-6-88)

▶**BAGUIO**—Baguio College Foundation Gym—Underdog Bernabe Aliping, 135, luckily wrested the Filipino lightweight crown as the defending champ Rod Sequenan, 134½, was declared unfit to continue due to a big cut at 1:50 of the third round in a scheduled 12.

An accidental headbutt happened midway in Round Two, and it opened a bad gash. In the next session, referee Silvasre Abainza showed the cut to the ring doctor, who advised the third man to halt the proceedings.

Ramon Wasi, the GAB's top junior lightweight, 131, proved to be a new sensation in Baguio City, whipping Diego Lebante, 131, en route to a unanimous decision in 10.

Promoter: Raffy Panagan.

(3-12-88)

▶**MANILA**—Rizal Memorial Coliseum—Bert Pucay, 127, turned the tables on Bert Granciosa, also 127, halting him at 2:12 of the seventh session of a scheduled 12.

Pucay, 24, had suffered a TKO loss to Granciosa, and he revenged it with the ring physician stopping the contest because of the loser's nasty cut at the right eyebrow. Tom Evaristo refereed.

Roger de Rama, a 19-year-old lefty, worked inside of Jun Altarejos, the GAB's #3 junior fly, 108, copping a unanimous duke in 10.

Miguel Arrozal, who turned pro last November, 122, unanimously decisioned Felix Enero, also 122, in 10.

Promoter: Felimon Vasquez.

(3-12-88)

▶**PRANAQUE**—Elorde Sports Complex—Louie Gonzales, 117, defeated Sammy Ansig, 117, by a unanimous decision in 10. Virgilio Garcia refereed.

Billy Endrena, 122, upset Mac Espanola, the GAB's

#5 junior featherweight, 120, in 10.

Ex-Filipino junior featherweight boss Little Bangoyan, 121½, proved too ringwise for Jun Llano, also 121½, copping a majority nod in 10. Bangoyan neutralized Llano's aggressiveness with his sharp jabs and one-two combos.

Al Mariano, 119, a shorter boy, decisively beat Joseph Ladipe, 118, on points in 10.

Promoter: Laura S. Elorde.

(3-16-88)

▶**ROZAS, NORTH COTABATO**—Arman Picar, Filipino #2 welterweight, peppered Dario Melida, also 147, onesidedly and registered a second-round TKO in a scheduled 10. Butalid refereed.

Mario Sumalinog, 122, was a unanimous points winner over Francis Velasquez, also 122, in 10.

Promoter: Victor Quiambao.

(3-17-88)

▶**LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET**—Ric de la Paz, 125, pummeled Venecio Esteban, 126, into submission at 1:10 of the third session in a scheduled 10.

Promoter: George Tam.

(3-19-88)

▶**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY**—Gold City Coliseum—Rod Naiconi, Filipino #5 flyweight, 113, chalked up a TKO victory over Ruel Durano, 113, in the eighth round in a scheduled 10.

Dick Carlos III, 104, won a unanimous decision over Fernando Baja, 106, in 10.

Elson Duran, 109, and Loloc Elloren, 110, battled to a majority draw in 10.

Vic Tinaco, 107, stopped Loel Roy Alaiza, also 107, in the third session of the first 10.

Promoter: Quintin Kaamino.

(3-19-88)

▶**PANTUKAN, DAVAO DEL NORTE**—Joel Revilla, 108, TKO'd Renato Betsaida, 108, in the fifth round of a scheduled 10.

Young Rey, 114, also stopped Geofrey Geconcillo, 116, in the sixth session of a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Rolando Ligas.

(3-20-88)

▶**DIGOS, DAVAO**—Ric Apatan, 118, won a unanimous decision over Domino Semini, 118, in 10.

Ruel Edombingo, 118, halted Rosalino Sanoy, 118, in the fifth canto of a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Gabriel Traya.

(3-20-88)

▶**BAGUIO CITY**—UB Gym—Romy Navarrete, 112, impressively recaptured the Filipino flyweight throne as he dropped Sammy Baculong, 112, twice with an overhand right and stopped him at 2:33 of the seventh session in a scheduled 12. Bruce McTavish, an Australian referee, made the defending champ go on after the bad knockdown, but Romy's follow-up caused the loser's corner to throw in the towel. Navarrete had complained of being robbed of a decision to Sammy August 1, despite sending him twice to the deck.

Audy Murphy, 118, TKO'd Bobby Pinos, 119½, in the opening canto of a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Emily dela Rama.

(3-26-88)

▶**MOLAVE, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR**—Jun Edward, the GAB's #4 junior bantie, 116, took a unanimous nod over Jun Salisi, 116, in 10. Oswaldo Zayas refereed.

Jun Arabas, 127, won from Jessim Garzon, 128, in 10.

Erning Tinoy, 116, TKO'd Flash Asesor, 116, in the third canto of a scheduled 10.

Promoter: Reynaldo Yabut.

(3-27-88)

▶**VALENCIA, BUKIDNON**—Former Filipino junior flyweight champ Tacy Macalos, 109, showed his strength in battering Cesar de la Cruz, 112, to a technical knockout at 1:45 of the fifth round in a scheduled 10.

It was a good matchup. Macalos previously had a crack at Jum-Hwan Choi's IBF throne, losing a very close verdict March 29, 1987. Though dethroned by Sonny Vidal last July, Tacy bounced back with kayo wins over Leopard Ari and Arnulfo Melencion. Cesar also tabbed good consecutive wins. Macalos, however, proved too sharp and scrappy for de la Cruz, with referee Ric Alido halting the affair.

Macalos improved his log to 21-4-3 with seven knockouts.

Al Balaba, Filipino #6 junior featherweight, 120, stopped Kid Gella, 121, in the seventh canto in a scheduled 10.

John Medina, 108, won from Del Tengam, 108, in 10.

Promoter: Little Tucmo.

(3-27-88)

▶**NOTES:** On March 11, **Rolando Navarrete,** former WBC world super featherweight champ, returned to his mother land, as he was lately released from a jail named Halawa medium security facility in Hawaii. Rolando, 31, was serving a 22-year sentence for assaulting and raping a Korean bar hostess in Hawaii. Navarrete, dubbed as "Bad Boy from Dadiangas," showed his strong determination to make a comeback by leading a clean life with the aid of great impresario Papa Lope Sarreal. He appeared in three-round sparring sessions with Momong Mana-ay at Elorde Sports Complex in Paranaque March 16. He will fight for the first time since being confined in jail for three years and eight months — on the undercard of the IBF world flyweight title bout between Filipino champ Rolando Bohol and Korean challenger Cho-Woon Park May 6.

JOE KOIZUMI

THAILAND

▶**BANGKOK**—One of the most promising Thai fighters must be Thanomsak Sithboabay, former OPBF (Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation) flyweight champion who outgrew the class to be ranked sixth junior bantamweight by the WBA and ninth super flyweight by the WBC due to his latest consecutive wins, including an important decision over ex-WBC world titlist Frank Cedeno late last year.

Thanomsak, a beautifully proportioned athlete, easily knocked out Nakrob Sorphayathai in the third round of a scheduled six. The tall boxer-puncher bettered his log to 19-1 with 10 kayoes. He turned 23 April 5.

(2-21-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Chandang Singchuevang, Thai Commission's ninth-ranked bantie, drew with San (Pichaisankram) Nortorchor, #3 junior bantam in six.

San is 6-1-1 with three kayoes.

(2-2-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Koban Sithkoochart, the TBC's #4 junior flyweight, stopped Yingyai Petchvihar in the fifth round of a scheduled six. Koban is 7-0 with four knockouts.

(2-4-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Kongnapha Singthorchor, Thai #4 featherweight, outscored Yingyai Petchvihar in six. Kongnapha is 10-5-1 with a kayo. Yingyai dropped to 19-5 with 10 stoppages.

(2-6-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Ratana Singsamang, the TBC's top junior feather contender, needed less than three minutes to dispose of Cherngrub Kruthavut, the eighth-ranked featherweight, in a scheduled six. The first-round kayo raised his credentials to 9-1 with four kayoes.

(2-8-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Petchainat Donjadee, Thai flyweight champ, 114, scored a second-round kayo over Saksuring Kiatkarnbinthai, the TBC's #9 junior bantie, in a scheduled six.

(2-9-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Derntup Mortemchamnan, Thai #3 mini-flyweight, decisioned Charn Sitcharnsak, the TBC's #5 flyweight, in six. The winner is 12-2 with 10 kayoes.

(2-10-/88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—**Downmai Sithkodom,** the WBC's 11th ranked 122-pounder, lost his Thai junior featherweight throne to **Noree Jokkygym** via an unexpected decision in 10.

Scoring: double 96-95 and 97-94, all for the challenger.

Downmai was stalking Noree, whose boxing and counterpunching impressed the judges. Noree, 18, is 22-5-1 with eight kayoes. Downmai, 24-4 with 16 kayoes, was planning to have a crack at the WBC's super bantamweight crown in the near future. But he has to reverse this setback to the new champ before meeting **Daniel Zaragoza** in his quest for the world diadem.

(2-14-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Trang T. Boonlert, Thai mini-flyweight champ, easily polished off Komsak Sithruang in the second round of a scheduled six. Trang, the WBC's 15th-ranked 105-pounder, is 12-3-1 with kayoes.

(2-17-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Thomberm Vongvianyai, the TBC's top lightweight contender, knocked out Jenrub Muangsurin, #7 lightie, in the fourth round of a scheduled six.

(2-19-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Having been decisioned by **Hiroki Ioka** in a WBC strawweight eliminator in Japan October 12 last, Mai Thomburifarm returned to ring warfare and demolished Saenpon Silpakorn in the first round of a scheduled six. Mai is 12-2 with five kayoes.

(2-23-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Thai lightweight champ Chan Run-

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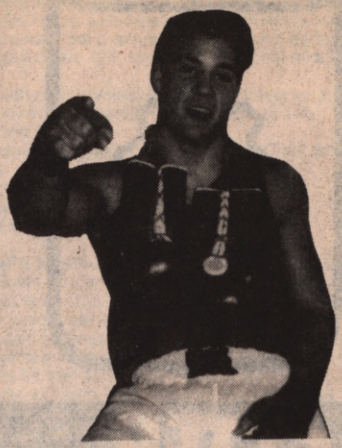

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grojana, a hard-punching prospect, showed his power in disposing of Samor Donjadee, the #2 contender, in the second session of a non-title six. Chan, a son of an American father and a Thai mother, scored 10 kayoes in a row to improve his record to 23-3 with 21 knockouts. He will be a possible challenger for current OPBF kingpin Bong-Chun Park.
(2-24-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Former WBC super bantamweight champ **Samart Payakaroon** floored veteran Hector Cortez, Ecuador, twice and finished him in the fourth round in a scheduled six. Samart, however, had his fractured right hand operated on after the fight. It was his second straight win since being dethroned by **Jeff Fenech** May 8, 1987, but he will be obliged to be inactive until his recovery. Samart is 16-1 with 10 knockouts.
(2-27-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—Ded Donjadee, the TBC's top ranked miniflyweight, 107, easily knocked out Sming S. Samringrit, a simon pure, 106, in the third session of a scheduled six.
(3-2-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—Tantavan Vongvianyai, Thai #8 bantie, 118, stopped Narongthavat Nabumrung, the seventh-ranked fly, 117 in the third round of a scheduled six.
(3-5-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—Putt Phyuthanakorn, Thai junior flyweight champ, 108, proved too strong for Ongkot Sithseemok, 107, in the second round of a scheduled six.
Promoter: Somphob Srisomvongse.
(3-8-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Kajkong Danphoothai, the WBC's 12th-ranked strawweight, 110, caught Lanthong Chalotorn, 112, and finished him in the sixth and final round.
(3-14-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Sombtr Euasampan, Thai top bantamweight contender, 117, easily disposed of Kiatchai Kiatsonthaya, 117, in the second session of a scheduled six. The loser, Kiatchai, is such a victim as to be knocked out in every fight.
Promoter: Nivatt Laosuvanvatt.
(3-16-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Hagler Chuvatana, a shaven-skulled fighter a la Marvelous Marvin, 137, eked out a split decision over Monchai Newflemtree, a shorter rival at 137, in six. Hagler, the TBC's #7 junior welterweight, is 2-1 with no KOs.
(3-17-88)

▶**RANONG PROVINCE—Noree Jokkygym,** a newly crowned junior featherweight champ of Thailand, 124, scored a unanimous decision over Pansak Kiatkaisorn, 125, in six. Noree is 23-5-1 with eight ;kayoes.
Promoter: Somart Hongsakul.
(3-18-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—Cherngrub Kruthavut, Thai #9 featherweight, 126, stopped unknown opponent Dechsak Laudaryuthaya, 125, in the second session of a scheduled six.
(3-19-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—Tepratum Eakchatchingchai, a hard-punching bantie ranked second by the TBC, 118, polished off Ladtraven Sooksavat, 118, in the second round of a scheduled six.
(3-26-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Pronsawan Sorthanikul, 114, a well-known Muay-Thai (national kick-boxing) battler famed for his power punching, failed to win his debut international style fight, becoming a second-round kayo victim of Raveenoi Hanravee, Thai #9 flyweight, 114, in a scheduled six.
(3-23-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—Taksin Muangsurin, an old soldier, 104, made a criticized comeback only to be stopped by Phichit Sithbangprachan, 107, in the second canto of a scheduled six. The winner is a hard hitter coming from the Muay-Thai field.
(3-25-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—Yingyai Petchvihar, the TBC's eighth-ranked junior featherweight, 127, easily kayoed Chokdee Savatdivaree, 130, in the second canto of a scheduled six.
(3-26-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Thai junior lightweight champ Srikum Narachavat, 130, successfully kept his crown by stopping Superboy Eakvat, the top contender, also 130, in the fourth round of a scheduled 10. It was Srikum's first defense of his national throne.
Promoter: Termsak Pitisarsombutr.
(3-26-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Lumpinee Stadium—San (Phichaisongkram) Nortorchor, Thai #4 junior bantie, 117, battered Somchai Kiatsonthaya, 117, and stopped him in the third round of a scheduled six.
(3-29-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Ritchchai Lukmingkwan, the TBC's third-ranked junior flyweight, 116, disposed of Linglom Kiatsakda, 114, in the fourth session of a scheduled six.
(3-30-88)

▶**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—Chan Rungrojana, Thai lightweight boss, 136, engaged in a non-title go and demolished Suban Kongpanyamo, #6 lightie, 137, in the fifth round of a scheduled six.
Promoter: Prakob Charernlab.
(3-31-88)

JOE KOIZUMI

PAN PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA

▶**MARRARA**—International Indoor Sports Stadium—In an all-action thriller, Steve Peel, 152, held his Australian junior middleweight title by halting John Siriotis, 151, in Round 10 of a scheduled 12.

There were no knockdowns, but Siriotis was starting to fall apart, so his corner threw in the towel. That, of course, is only a request to stop a fight. It is up to the referee to call cease fire, and I was the ref. I stopped the bout a couple of seconds after the towel.

It was close-up action all the way, but rough at times. Siriotis suffered cuts on both eyebrows. The cuts weren't deep, but he bled like a stuck pig.

This was the third shot at a major title for Siriotis. Twice last year he lost split decisions to Steve Renwick, who then lost the title to Peel. At the end of Round Nine, Peel held a lead on all cards, three points on two and two points on the third, which was mine.

In a 10-round support that turned into a rough fight with a lot of clinching, Portuguese Paulo Pinto, now living in Darwin, turned pro to meet Sydney-based New Zealander Rodney Brown. Pinto, 139, boxed well and had a comfortable lead on Brown, 142¼, when referee Alex Rose declared no contest in Round Seven and walked out of the ring.

In another 10, local Shane Dalton, 145, halted Queenslander Bobby Boots, 135½, in Round Two because of a cut eye. Boots was going well and is worth watching.

Australian junior bantam champion Peter Mitrevski, 114, halted veteran Bobby Williams, 115, in the fifth of a scheduled six. Mitrevski took it easy all the way.
Promoter: Northern Promotions/John Siriotis.
(4-30-88)

QUEENSLAND

▶**BRISBANE**—Festival Hall—Australian lightweight and junior welterweight champion **Lester Ellis** met Filipino Rod Sequenan in the main event scheduled for 10 rounds.

In April, 1985, Ellis, then IBF junior lightweight titleholder, defended his crown against Sequenan, who gave him one helluva battle. Ellis won that one by KO in Round 13, but this time he decided to end it early.

Sequenan was counted out in just 1:43 by referee Alan Moore.

Over eight rounds, Dean Layton, 152, outpointed Stewart Hartley, 155½, in a very good fight that drew a large shower of money from ringsiders.

In another eight-rounder, Scott Brouwer, 122, halted Russell Finn, 126, after a good bout that saw Finn run out of gas and fail to leave his corner when the bell rang to start Round Five.

Rod Carr, 170, outpointed Craig Petersen, 175, over eight.

Over four rounds, Neil Garland, 122, outpointed Robert Spencer, 119, on a split decision.
(4-20-88)

NEW SOUTH WALES

▶**CARDIFF**—Workers Club—Craig Pevy, 128, held his

NSW state junior lightweight title with a seventh-round stoppage of Chris Dawe, 130.

There were no knockdowns, but Pevy was well on top and Dawe was being punished when referee Billy Males stopped it at 1:33.

The remainder of the card consisted of bouts scheduled for four rounds each.

Wayne Elliott, 121¼, knocked out Russell Williams, 117, in 51 seconds.

Shawn Jenkins, 142¼, knocked out Darren Goodwin, 140, in the fourth.

John James, 135½, outpointed Vic Wesley, 141.

Shane Council, 177½, knocked out Ray Kelly, 185¼, in two.

Brad Ure, 159¾, knocked out Scott Simons, 161, in one.

(4-19-88)

▶**ROSEHILL**—Racecourse—Australia's leading boxing promoter, Bill Mordey, put on a black-tie show at Rosehill Racecourse with four fights, a comedian and a meal for patrons wearing evening dress.

On top of the bill, Jeff Harding, 171¾, removed the OPBF light heavyweight crown from the brow of Doug Sam, 172¼, in five rounds of a scheduled 12.

There were no knockdowns, but Harding, a gym mate of WBC featherweight titleholder **Jeff Fenech,** was well in charge all the way, and Sam withdrew at the end of Round Five.

Over eight rounds, Alan Whitten, 123, outpointed southpaw Peter Warren, 123¾, for a clear-cut verdict.

In six rounds, Adam Fogarty, 226, made his debut with a third-round KO win over Islander Mandingo, 221½.

Paul Edwards, 159¼, knocked out Happy Man, 166¾, in the fourth and final round.

(4-28-88)

VICTORIA

▶**GEELONG**—Italian Soccer Club—Victorian Rocky Pirrottine, 146½, clearly outpointed Western Australian Matthew Smith, 146½, over 10 rounds.

Guy Murdoch, 163½, won a six-round decision over Mick Russell, 163¼.

Tony Marretta, 141, outpointed Dean Hillman, 145½, over six.

Moli Kaufusi, 202¾, outpointed Mark Sarif, 218¼, in six.

Barkan Karman, 191¾, outpointed Bruce Gooding, 196¼, in four.

Promoter: Tony Salter.

(4-22-88)

▶**MELBOURNE**—Sports & Entertainment Centre—The Waters brothers all scored wins against Americans, Commonwealth junior middleweight champion **Troy Waters,** 153¾, shining brightest by proving far too good for **Jack Callahan,** 153.

Officially, a cut eye brought the stoppage at the end of Round Two. But Callahan was in some kind of bother, being decked in that round and barely making it to the bell.

In another 10, Australian light heavyweight champion **Guy Waters** easily outpointed **Wilbert "Vampire" Johnson,** 176¾, the scores being 99-90, 100-88 and 100-91.

In the third 10, Australian heavyweight champion **Dean Waters,** 218¾, outpointed **Irish Dan Murphy,** 200¼, with scores of 98-92, 99-91 and 97-93.

Over eight rounds, comer Scott Brouwer, 121¼, outpointed former Australian flyweight champion, veteran Charlie Brown, 120. This was very heavy for Brown, who holds the NSW state bantamweight title, but usually boxes around 114 or 115. It was a good performance by Brouwer, who won, 79-71, 79-70 and 78-74.

Promoter: Marty Rhone.

(5-6-88)

RAY MITCHELL

NEW ZEALAND

▶**AUCKLAND**—Hyatt Kingsgate Centre—New Zealand heavyweight champion Lance Revill, 189¾, buried a crunching left rip into David Rava Rava's body to knock him out at 1:23 of Round Three in a bout billed for the South Pacific cruiserweight title.

Revill now wants a shot at the Orient Pacific cruiser crown and, if successful, then wants Glenn McCrory's Commonwealth championship.

Rava Rava scaled 190.

New Zealand middleweight champ Pilua Taito met Rocky Aumatangi for the vacant South Pacific light heavyweight crown and, after 12 superb rounds of sustained action, Taito was declared unaimous points victor. Though he won clearly, Taito was never given a chance to relax as Aumatangi gamely was always there when an opening presented itself.

Undefeated Michael Sykes, 140, produced a beautiful southpaw right hook to the jaw to drop Junior Bala, 133¾, for a third time, and referee Ali Afakasi immediately declared Sykes TKO victor at 2:13 of Round Two of their scheduled eight.

Paul Baker, 155½, appeared to have handsomely won his six-rounder with Sio Tanuvasa, 155¾, but he received only a majority win from the judges.

Fred Toleafoa, 165, proved too strong and hit too hard for Nev Masua, 159, and referee Johnny Hanks declared Toleafoa TKO victor midway through Round Two.

Silao Vao took a free-hitting, six-round encounter from Sione Felipe via a split decision.

Promoter: Arthur Collins.

Referees: Beaven Weir, Eddie Manuela, Ali Afakasi & Johnny Hanks.

Attendance: 5,000.

(5-9-88)

▶**AUCKLAND**—Glenfield Rec Centre, North Shore—Heavyweight Linsey Christiansen made a storming return to the winning column by decisively outfighting game Lokeni Lolovai in a scheduled eight-rounder.

Christiansen found the range for his sharp, snappy two-handed combinations by Round Two, dropping Lolovai twice, and dominated from that point. Christiansen pummeled his foe in the third until Lolovai slumped to the canvas dazed and exhausted and the bout was stopped at 1:53.

In another heavyweight bout, Young Haumona waited until the end of his eight-rounder with Rocky Salanoa to display his ability, earning a unanimous decision with his late burst.

The light heavyweight bout scheduled for six between Terry Hill and Mua Taliulu was a hard-fought contest until late in the fifth when Taliulu was dropped by a tremendous right. Hill attacked viciously in the last frame, dropping his opponent twice more before being declared victor by TKO at 1:42.

In another light heavyweight six, Temua Anae was unanimously outscored by lanky Mike Hall, who appears to be a fine prospect. Both toughed it out over the opening four rounds, but early in the fifth a left hook dropped Anae. Hall steamed in with a barrage of heavy hooks to head and body, but Anae, though given a standing eight in the final frame, gamely stuck in there until the finish.

Monty Bhana overwhelmed Paddy Junior in their six-round middleweight contest, scoring a TKO when Junior failed to answer the bell for the last round. Bhana was always two or three punches ahead of his opponent, then dropped him with a fifth-round right to the head.

In a willing and closely contested show opener, light heavyweight Sione Felipe won by unanimous decision over Fatu Lau after four rounds.

Promoter: Justan Higgens.

Attendance: 500.

(5-12-88)

JOHNNY HANKS

AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

▶**ELDORADO PARK**—Don Mateman Hall—Quinton Ryan, 128, retained his South African junior lightweight title with a sixth-round stoppage of Simon Bekker, 129.

Defending his title for the first time, Ryan came into the ring in peak physical condition and completely dominated until Bekker's corner threw in the towel.

Ryan took his record to 8-2-2.

In a welterweight bout, Danny Myburgh, 145, showed good improvement to stop plucky Keith Summerlon, 144¾, in the third round.

Promoter: Sarel Dauds.

Attendance: 700 (est.).

(2-22-88)

▶**PORT ELIZABETH**—Motherwell Stadium—Cape junior middleweight champion Michael Ggwetani retained his title by stopping Philip Mampara in the ninth round in a disappointing scheduled 10.

(2-28-88)

▶**SPRINGS**—Springs Indoor Arena—Charles Oosthuizen, 157½, won his second South African title when he pounded out a unanimous, 12-round decision over Gregory Clark, 155, to take the national middleweight title.

Oosthuizen dominated after sustaining a cut over his left eye in the seventh, taking scores of 118-113, 117-113 and 118-114.

The new champion is 18-3-3, while Clark dropped to 38-6.

Promoter: Marcus Nkosi.

Attendance: 1,500 (est.).

(2-29-88)

▶**CAPE TOWN**—Good Hope Centre—Pierre Coetzer, the South African heavyweight champion, was clearly beaten over 10 rounds by **Ossie Ocasio,** the former WBA junior heavyweight titleholder from Puerto Rico.

Ocasio never gave Coetzer a chance to find his range or rhythm and was surprisingly nimble for all the excess weight he was carrying.

A jaded Elijah Cele offered little resistance before being stopped by Aladin Stevens in the seventh round of a lightweight contest.

(3-6-88)

▶**PORT ELIZABETH**—Feather Market Hall—South African junior welterweight champion Phumzile Madikane outgunned the Dominican Republic's powerfully built Eduardo Luciano to win an eighth-round TKO.

A devestating body attack by Odwa Mdleleni gave him an exciting fifth-round TKO victory over Ramon Pena from Santo Domingo, flyweights.

(3-6-88)

▶**OKNEY**—Oppenheimer Stadium—**Thulane "Sugarboy" Malinga,** 168, clearly outpointed **"Diamond" Jim MacDonald,** 173½, United States, over 10 rounds.

MacDonald, who had title shots against Michael Spinks and Bobby Czyz, caught a careless Malinga in the fifth round and dropped him to his knees with a short right. Aside from that, Malinga, the former South African middleweight and light heavyweight champion, dominated.

The scores read 100-92 and 98-93 twice as Malinga improved to 24-3 and MacDonald skidded to 20-6.

Dingaan Thobela, 128, stopped Gerald Isaacs, 129¾, in the third round of a scheduled 10 to win the Transvaal junior lightweight title.

Promoter: World Sports Promotions.

Attendance: 3,000 (est.).

(3-7-88)

▶**DURBAN**—Red Cross Hall—Olvin Mthembu stopped Alfred Scott in the third round to retain his Natal featherweight title.

Promoter: Powerline Promotions.

(3-7-88)

▶**WORCESTER**—Ashley Whiteboy scored an impressive six-round decision over Linda Maggaza in a lightweight clash.

(3-12-88)

▶**EAST LONDON**—City Hall—Featherweight Jackie Gunguluza scored a unanimous, eight-round decision over Graham Clarke of Wales.

Mbulelo Mxokiswa narrowly outpointed British middleweight Michael Harris over eight rounds.

Promoter: Real First Team Promotions.

(3-13-88)

▶**JOHANNESBURG**—Portuguese Hall—Sakkie Horn, South African light heavyweight champion, scored a convincing, ninth-round knockout over American Glenn Kennedy in a scheduled 10.

Horn was dropped on two occasions in the second round, but recovered well to overtake his opponent.

Freddie Rafferty scored one of the quickest wins of his career when he knocked out Canadian Jimmy Gradson in just 2:36 of a heavyweight bout.

Promoter: Gerrie Coetzee.

Matchamker: Bill Bosch.

Attendance: 1,200.

(3-14-88)

▶**ELDORADO PARK**—Don Mateman Hall—Ephraim Lepota, a virtual unknown, came from behind to win the South African junior featherweight title by stopping Stanford Ngcebeshe in the ninth of a scheduled 12.

Promoter: Sam Monane.

Attendance: 800 (est.).

(3-21-88)

▶**JOHANNESBURG**—Ellis Park Arena—Brian Baronet came off the canvas to outpoint American Davey Montana in a 10-round welterweight match.

Simon Skosana retained his South African bantamweight title with a convincing, 11th-round stoppage over plucky Fundile Shushwana.

(3-28-88)

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WORLDWIDE FIGHT RESULTS

Michael Dokes (right) clobbers James Pritchard with a right to the mouth on his way to a seventh-round TKO at MSG's Felt Forum (see page 46 for details).

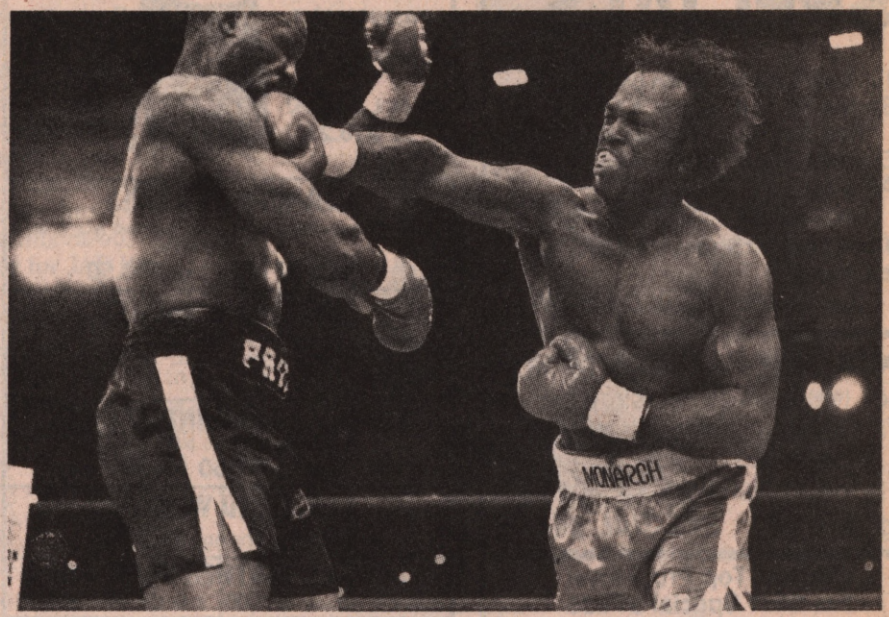

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Donovan Ruddock TKO1 Ken Lakusta
Mike Williams KO2 Dorcey Gaymon
Rick Sekorski KO2 Jeff May
George Foreman KO3 Frank Williams
Lance Revill KO3 David Rava Rava
Alfonzo Ratliff W10 Craig Bodzianowski
Dean Waters W10 Dan Murphy
Tony Morrison KO1 Leon Spinks
Orlin Norris W10 Andrew Stokes
Everett Martin W10 Bert Cooper
Richard Mason W12 Earl Lewis
Mike Evans TKO8 David Jaco
Francesco Damiani KO3 John Emmen

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Don Lalonde TKO5 Leslie Stewart
(Retained WBC Title)
Fulgencio Obelmejias W12 Chong-Pal Park
(Won WBA Super Middleweight Title)
Lindell Holmes KO2 Steve Darnell
Jeff Harding TKO5 Doug Sam
Guy Waters W10 Wilbert Johnson
Tony Willis W12 Mike Sedillo
Dennis Andries W10 Bobby Czyz
Mike Peak W10 Seamus McDonagh
James Kinchen KO4 James Williams

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Ron Collins W10 Charles Campbell
Troy Waters TKO2 Jack Callahan
Nigel Benn TKO2 Tim Williams
Frank Tate W10 Sanderline Williams
Philip Morefield TKO1 L.C. Robinson
Wayne Harris W12 Patrick Farley
Reggie Johnson KO3 William Clayton
Greg Dickson W10 Lester Yarbrough
Tim Williams W12 Herman Cavesuela
Jose Varela TKO5 Sammy Floyd
Pilua Taito W12 Rocky Aumatangi
Jose Quinones TKO8 Jerome Kelly
Steve Peel TKO10 John Siriotis
Davey Moore TKO6 Gary Coats
John Mugabi TKO3 Knox Brown
Gary Hinton W10 Frank Montgomery
Paul McPeek W10 Danny Thomas
Darrin Van Horn TKO3 Angel Albrado
Takeshi Yamato W10 Hideo Kanenami

WELTERWEIGHTS

Akinobu Hiranaka KO1 Tadanobu Miura
Seung-Soon Lee W10 Francisco Ferrer
Tracy Spann TKO2 Felipe Julio
Young Dick Tiger W10 Rigo Lopez
Stanley Longstreet TKO3 Choo Choo Brown
John Meekins W10 Mike Mungin
Mickey Ward W10 David Silva
Rodney Moore W12 Ali Saad Muhammad
Tunde Foster TKO4 Pedro Torres
Frankie Randall KO1 Sebastian Wilburn
Alston Cameron W10 Ray Pottinger
Cassius Clay Horne KO7 Floyd Peavy
Paulo Pinto NC7 Rodney Brown
Shane Dalton TKO2 Bobby Boots
John Montes W10 Octavio Robles
Juan Martin Coggi KO2 Sang-Ho Lee
(Retained WBA Jr. Welter Title)
Engels Pedroza KO5 Felipe Angulo
Terrence Alli W10 Jerry Page
Hiroyuki Yoshino KO3 Hitoshi Kamiyama

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Lupe Miranda W10 Dwain Swift
Yoshitatsu Nakazato W10 Shinji Kobayashi
Michael Benjamin TKO4 Philip Binante
Rogelio Lopez TKO4 Mark Hammon
Louie Lomeli TKO3 Billy White
Herminio Delgado W12 Ramon Verdugo
Frankie Mitchell W10 Billy Young
Bernabe Aliping W10 Lito Pena
Tiger Asakura KO1 Donny Yamashita
Shigeru Fudai W10 Lancer Nakamura
Takeyuki Akagi KO7 Mitsuteru Higashi
Tetsuji Kase TKO6 Shoji Nishida

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Daniel Zaragoza D12 Seung-Hoon Lee
(Retained WBC Super Bantam Title)
Jesse Benavides KO2 James Pipps
Noboru Ogiwara W10 Jun Yonesaka
Kazushige Shibuya W10 Yukihiro Kimura
Steve McCrory KO2 idelfonza Bernal
Tom Johnson KO2 Ernesto Moto
Renaldo Carter W10 Jeff Hanna
Robert Shannon KO8 Irving Mitchell
Daryl Pinckney KO10 Amos Cowart
Louie Espinoza KO2 Francisco Pena
Hector Lopez KO9 Oscar Bejines
Jesus Poll W12 Louie Espinoza
Calvin Grove W15 Myron Taylor
(Retained IBF Title)
Konoshita Douglas KO1 Osamu Kazuo
Antony Gonzalez D10 Kengo Fukuda
Yoshitaka Mizuo W10 Koichi Aramaki
Naoto Takahashi KO2 Sombootyod Singsamang
Mitsuru Sugiya KO5 Yasuo Jinde

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Miguel Lora W12 Lucio Lopez
(Retained WBC Title)
Kaokor Galaxy W12 Wilfredo Vasquez
(Won WBA Title)
Kaosai Galaxy KO7 Sung-Kap Song
Soichi Shimamura KO7 Speedy Kikuchi
Ray Minus Jr. TKO3 Morgan Maphosa
Tae-Il Chang KO6 Kazuto Kurahachi

FLYWEIGHTS

Leo Gamez TKO3 Kenji Yokozawa
(Retained WBA Minimumweight Title)
Dodie Penalosa W10 Kwanjai Porpenpith
Tacy Macalos TKO4 Rittichai Lukmingkwan
Sonny Vidal W10 Little Baguio
Tomohiro Kiuna KO10 Kenji Ono
Tatsua Sugi TKO5 Hideto Osanai

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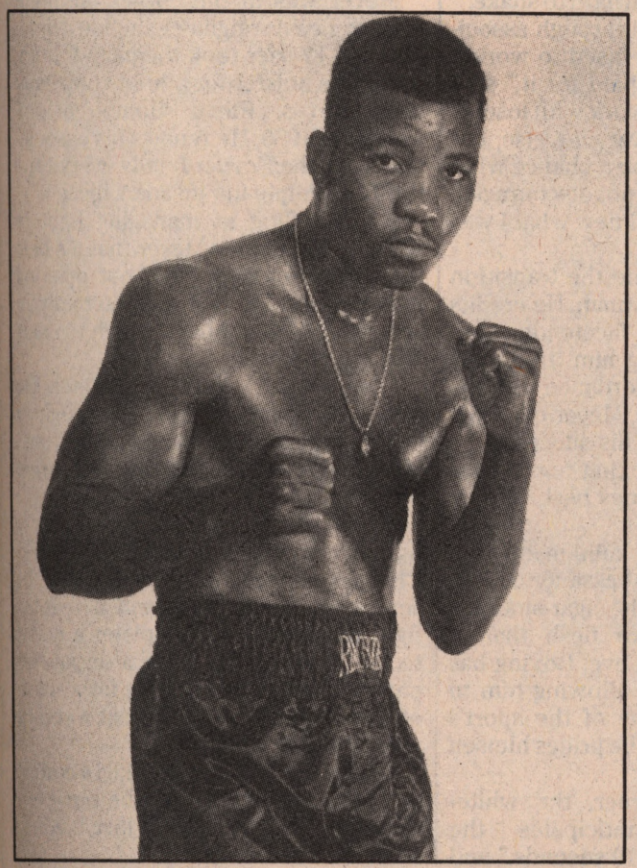
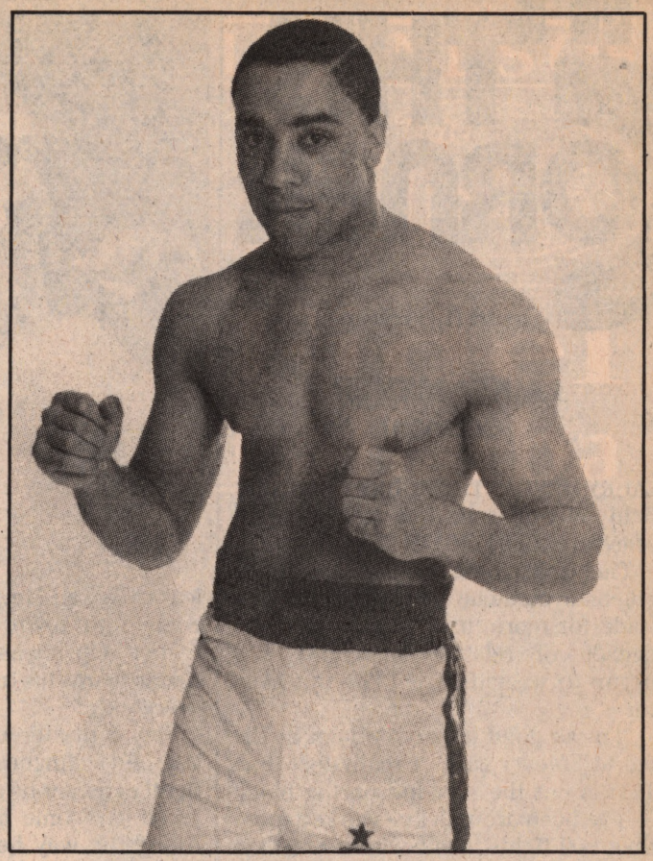
REGGIE JOHNSON MIDDLEWEIGHT

THOUGH IBF MIDDLEWEIGHT BOSS FRANK TATE IS THE most famous 160-pounder in Texas, Houston's Reggie "Sweet" Johnson is quietly sneaking up on him. A loser to Tate in the 1984 Olympic Trials, Johnson turned pro in August of '84 under the banner of JAB Promotions. So far, Johnson has built a rapidly improving 17-1-1 (nine KOs) record. And while not considered much of a puncher at first, he's stopped four of his last five opponents ... "Reg turned pro as a big welter, but as he's gained weight his punching power has increased," explained Lauren Pebley, event coordinator for JAB Promotions ... A quick-handed southpaw, Johnson began boxing at the age of 12 with the SABC Boys Club and went on to tally a 96-12 amateur log. Included among his amateur honors was the King's Cup Championship in Bangkok, Thailand ... Johnson's lone pro defeat came in his seventh outing when Adam George outpointed him over eight rounds. A six-round draw with Eric Williams was later avenged via a third-round TKO ... Other solid wins have come over Sidney Outlaw (W8), Jake Torrance (W8) and William Clayton (KO3) ... "Reg is a real gym rat," said manager Bob Jordan. "He only complains when he's not getting enough work. He's a great guy, the kind you'd like to have as your own kid." ... A stablemate of such hot prospects as heavyweight Mike Williams and featherweight James Pipps, Johnson hopes to be the first in the bunch to win a world title. □





DONNELL WINGFIELD LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT

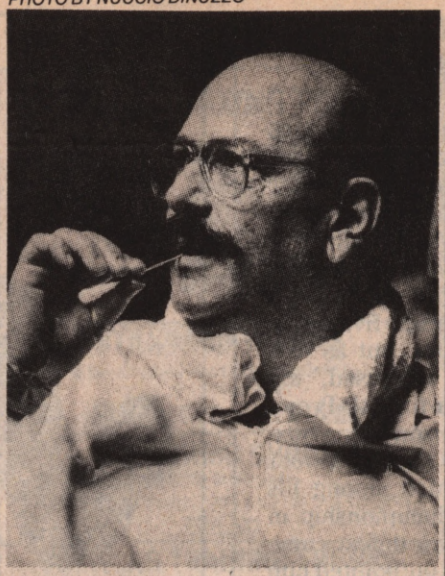
IT HAS BEEN OVER 35 YEARS, BACK WHEN JOEY MAXIM was the light heavyweight king, since Cleveland had a world champion to boast of. But now comes another Cleveland light heavyweight, sharp-punching Donnell Wingfield, who has given local fans high hopes of bringing another title to the city ... A product of one of Cleveland's toughest neighborhoods, Wingfield, 22, has a pro record of 11-0 with seven KOs. His 47-4 amateur log included two district Golden Glove titles ... With his aggressive style and light brown complexion, Donnell has often been compared to the great Joe Louis; hence, his nickname, "The Bronze Bomber" ... Donnell's attacking approach has made him a crowd favorite wherever he fights ... "I've got the old Cus D'Amato attitude towards boxing," Wingfield told *The Ring's* Ohio correspondent, Erich Gliebe. "Boxers are entertainers and they have to entertain the fans in order to be marketable. People do not spend money to watch two guys run around and jab each other. That's why I come to fight." ... Wingfield is managed by Canadian businessman John Melich ... "Donnell is the strongest light heavyweight I have ever seen," said Melich ... Sparring with top heavyweights Tim Witherspoon and Mitch Green has done wonders for Donnell's confidence ... "I know now that I'm slick enough to take on any fighter in the world." ... A budding Joe Louis? Maybe. Maybe not. Cleveland fans would even settle for another Maxim. □

IN THIS CORNER

by Jeff Carlson

LAURY MEYER (Cutman)

PHOTO BY NUCCIO DINUZZO



LAURY MEYER, "THE RODNEY DANGERfield of ring wars," is a cutman in search of a little R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

The Chicago-based practitioner of pugilistic medicine has been plying the trade for more than 10 years and the decade of relative anonymity has begun to wear thin on "The Cut Doctor."

"I'm as good as any cutman in the world," Meyer said. "I really feel that. This is not the new kid on the block — I've been around. I've worked more than 800 fights, dealt with more than 400 cuts and never lost a fight on cuts. Doesn't this tell you something?"

While there are few full-time fighters in the Windy City — there are no full-time cutmen in town. As a result, Meyer has worked for the past 30 years in sales. Currently employed by Shaw's Jewelry & Furniture Store, the cutman's days are filled with banter and bargains, but his day job gets put on layaway when fight night rolls around.

"When I hear of an upcoming show, I try to get assignments right away," Meyer said. "I get excited. I stay excited. Everything about it excites me. It's hard to concentrate on other things before a fight show."

The first show Meyer ever worked was in 1978. Mike LaQuatra (then manager of featherweight Albert Collazo) was in search of an able-bodied cornerman to assist him. Meyer, who'd been attending fight day weigh-ins at the Illinois Boxing Commission since 1975, happened to be in the right place at the right time. He ended up working three fights his first night in the corners and a career was launched. In the beginning, Meyer worked with many "opponents."

"How selective can you be when you're brand new and you want to learn?" asked Meyer. "A lot of fighters come into town without competent corner help, it was my chance to learn. A man learns his trade by working with everybody."

Meyer mastered his trade all right, but his willingness to work with all fighters meant he spent a considerable amount of time in the losing corner. Along the way he acquired a reputational collar that's been hard to shake.

"I was being judged through association and the fact I refused to work a fight without getting paid for it," said Meyer. "Who likes to work with losers? I have feelings like everyone else, but if people don't give you a chance what can you do? But I was not discouraged, because in my heart I knew what I was doing."

In 1981, Meyer made the transition from cornerman to cutman. He credits veteran East Coast facetender Ace Marotta with teaching him the basics of the business. In accordance with the loyal order of cutmen, Meyer carefully guards the secrets of his success.

"The really elite boxing man keeps to himself what he does best," Meyer said.

Middle-aged and mild-mannered, Meyer is Chicago's ambassador of boxing. Fight night finds the cigar-smoking Meyer pumping more flesh than a politician on election eve. Boxing has been good to Meyer, allowing him to travel and meet many of the sport's legends, but above all he prides himself on professionalism.

Poised in the corner, the white-smocked Meyer anticipates the timekeeper's call of "10 seconds," and readies corner personnel and equipment. In the ring he is a blur of efficiency, believing it sacreligous to squander any one of the 60 precious seconds.

"An integral part of a corner is having people work smoothly together," Meyer said. "When you watch the fights on TV, look and see how inept some of the corners are. You're doing a disservice to your fighter if you don't have the best people to help him. My responsibility to the fighter is to give him the benefit of all my experience. You can lose a fight if the corner doesn't know what's going on."

Meyer possesses a Ph.D. in the fight game. His eyes are punchdrunk from watching live boxing, fight tapes and reading results. If he hasn't heard of a fighter, that boxer should be in the midst of a severe identity crisis.

"I read a lot, follow boxers and styles, and can basically tell you if they get cut, how they fight and how I'm needed to help them be successful," Meyer said. "I love boxing. It's been my life since I was a little kid. First, as a fan and a cornerman and the ultimate, as an outstanding cutman. I eat and sleep boxing — it's my life."

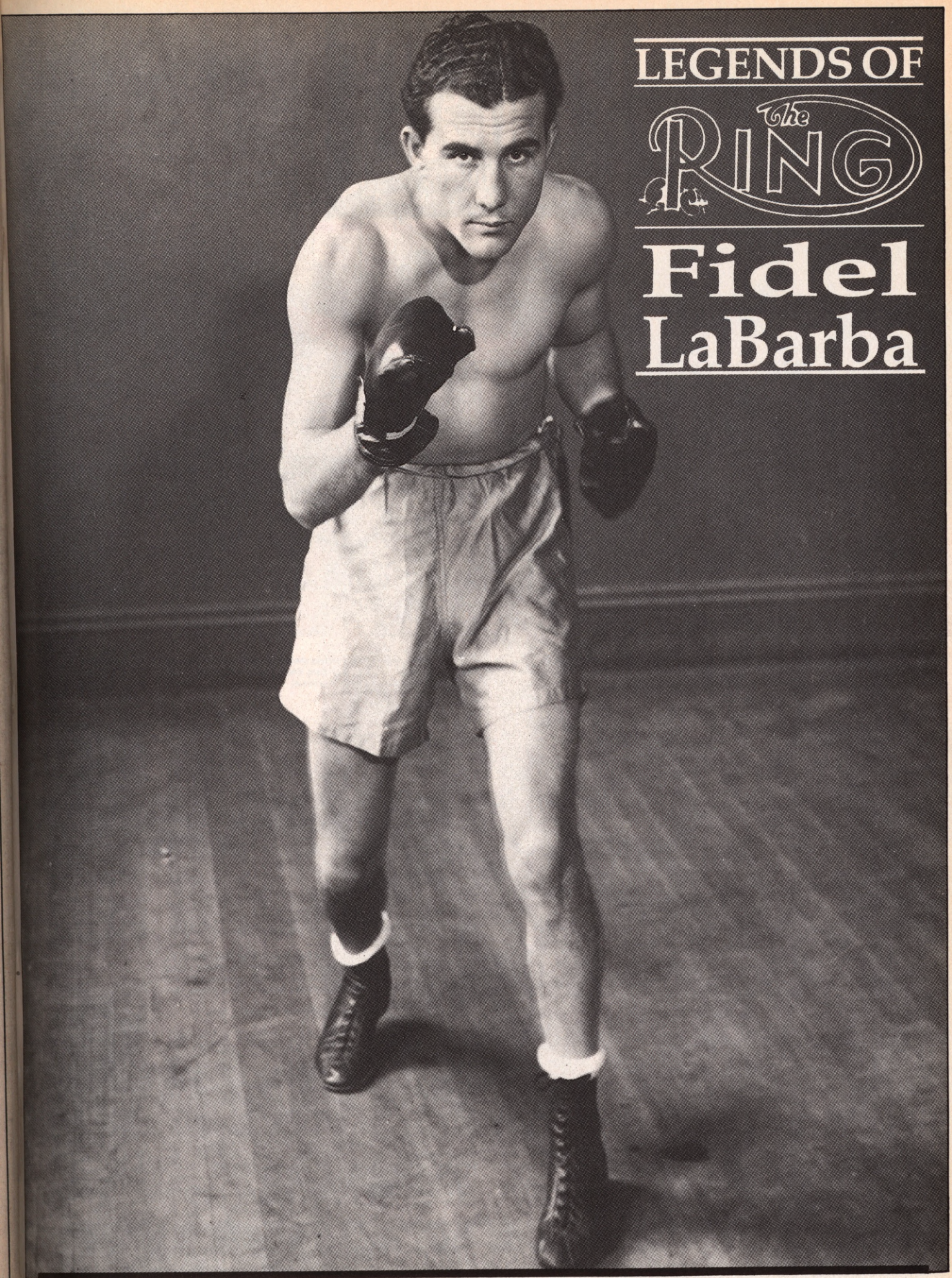
Meyer was in the corner the night former heavyweight champion "Smokin" Joe Frazier took the old left hook out of his holster for a brief comeback attempt (vs. Floyd "Jumbo" Cummings) in 1980. He renews his association with the Frazier family every time the Philadelphians invade Chicago.

A brief fling at managing fighters served to convince Meyer that his destiny lay in closing cuts, not opening negotiations. He is a man eternally in search of 60 seconds in which to exercise his expertise.

"Every fight I work is a memorable experience," Meyer said. "Every fighter is a champion. Fight night is show time. My stage is the boxing ring — I thrive on work."

While Meyer says he could work a fight show every night of the week, Chicago averages only one a month. In search of recognition and a regular fight fix, Meyer contemplates a move to the East Coast. After a decade of paying dues, Meyer yearns for a share of the spotlight and a shot at working with a world champion.

"Since the first day I worked a corner until the present, I have the same enthusiasm," Meyer said. "I love boxing, what else is there?" □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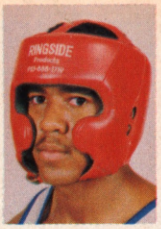

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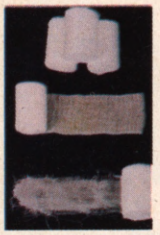

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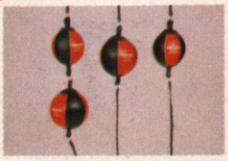

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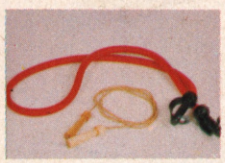

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